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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 30 November, and until further notice, the DAILY REPORT will cease publishing the "Front Page" feature.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Views Libyan Stance on Lockerbie

NC0112142792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—The seven-member Arab committee formed to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis urged the three countries involved in the crisis (the United States, Britain, and France) to respond to Libya's request that they pursue the course of dialogue to overcome the present difficulties so that the concerned parties can reach an appropriate solution in line with the principles of international law and legitimacy.

A statement issued today by the Arab League said that the seven-member committee met in Jeddah today on the sidelines of the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization and was briefed by the head of the Libyan delegation on the latest developments in the crisis and the positive response shown by his country recently.

The statement added that the committee once again has urged Libya's readiness to implement Security Council Resolution 731 and to work toward finding the legitimate means for implementing this resolution.

It is recalled that the committee includes Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania, in addition to Libya.

Libyan Envoy on League Contacts

NC0111142892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, and Libyan official 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, who is visiting Cairo.

Afterward al-Turayki said the Arab League secretary general is exerting sincere efforts to resolve the crisis between Libya and the West, adding that al-'Ubaydi briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the latest developments in the situation. He said the issue was discussed because the Arab League is interested in the subject and has issued several resolutions on it.

Asked about reports that the two Libyan suspects will be handed over before the deadline set by the UN Security Council, al-Turayki said he does not know anything about this, adding that Libya is committed to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 731.

Arab States Coordinating Against Iranian Terror

NC0111111092 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1003 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The coming few hours will witness high-level coordination between Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria aimed at drawing up a plan of action to confront the terrorist cells and pockets which Iran is financing, training, and preparing to plant in a number of Arab countries to undermine stability and create security disturbances.

Two delegations of security experts from Algeria and Tunisia arrived in Cairo a few days ago to exchange views with Egyptian security experts on the nature of the suspicious Iranian actions. These actions recently have taken on a grave dimension, reflected in the opening of doors at camps inside Iran for volunteers in the so-called Islamic Liberation Army. These camps are receiving outlaws from a number of Arab countries. Terrorist teams and groups are then formed and trained in the art of guerrilla warfare and ways to infiltrate the targeted Arab countries.

'Abd-al-Majid on Security, Arab Affairs

NC0112174092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Nov 92 pp 20-21

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Sami al-Sa'id; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Sa'id] Many people are worried about who will have U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's ear, because the Democrats are traditionally and historically sympathetic to Israel. They are worried he could turn his back on foreign policy and dedicate his time and effort to internal economy.

['Abd-al-Majid] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton stressed that he supports the peace process and is eager for its continuation. We certainly welcome this as a positive thing. The peace process will continue to bring about a peaceful settlement in the region. Clinton's preoccupation with the domestic economy does not mean he will ignore the political aspect; he will give it sufficient attention. This was clear from his assertions to regional leaders that he is concerned about the peace process and is considering it. This process has now gained its own momentum and the negotiating parties have reached an advanced stage, negotiating substantive issues.

[Al-Sa'id] The Collective Arab Defense Pact is being criticized as inapplicable. Can't you reconsider this pact in a manner that ensures some Arab states will not go to the West to protect their national security?

['Abd-al-Majid] I must discuss the importance of national security and pan-Arab security. The one complements the other. There can be no sound or guaranteed

national security if pan-Arab security is threatened. But national security can be sound and guaranteed if supported and backed by pan-Arab security. At the same time, it must be clear that the concept of security is the biggest responsibility of each individual state. Each state determines the needs and boundaries of its security on its own, because this concerns its people and its future. We should basically assume that there should be no interference in any country's security. We must acknowledge and proceed from this basic principle.

[Al-Sa'id] Wouldn't national security based on alliances with the West conflict with pan-Arab security?

['Abd-al-Majid] As I said, each country has its own national security. It handles it the way it deems appropriate for its own interests, away from any other considerations. If a country believes it can protect its national security by concluding agreements with various security sides, then it is totally free; it has the right to do so without any country having the right to criticize it, blame it, or discuss the issue with it. This principle must be clear and known. Having acknowledged each country's right to protect its national security, it is understood that pan-Arab security guarantees the national security of each individual Arab country, if the two are linked and intertwined. Pan-Arab security will not hurt national security. On the contrary, it will boost it.

[Al-Sa'id] We now come to the Damascus Declaration, which was signed in the wake of the crisis—Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The Declaration links the Gulf Cooperation Council and Egypt and Syria, physically far from the Gulf.

['Abd-al-Majid] The Damascus Declaration was a legitimate step signed in Damascus on 6 March. The purpose is, I believe, to coordinate and link the security of the six Gulf states with that of Syria and Egypt.

[Al-Sa'id] But geographically speaking, Egyptian and Syrian membership is unjustified.

['Abd-al-Majid] What do you mean by geographic justification? There is geographic justification. This is one region from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The security of the countries overlooking the Atlantic may affect the security of the Gulf states and vice versa. The Damascus Declaration is a legitimate pan-Arab attempt to respond to any questions anyone may have in mind, while acknowledging the right of every state to protect its national security. I emphasize this point because I do not see any conflict between the right of each Arab state to guarantee its national security and link this national security with pan-Arab security through other Arab countries. This is the philosophy of the Damascus Declaration, which I had the honor to sign on behalf of Egypt. Discussions on this declaration were held with GCC Secretary General brother 'Abdallah Bisharah when he visited the Arab League. He stressed that the Declaration is a positive step along the road. Events after the signing of the Declaration were natural developments and each state still has a genuine right to handle its security the way it sees fit. There is no conflict between the security of each Arab state and overall pan-Arab security.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the nine border disputes in the Gulf region? What about the Arab League's role in them and in the issue of border demarcation?

['Abd-al-Majid] The border disputes existed before the Arab League Charter and will exist after it. The disputes are not new, but have geographic, historic, and legal reasons. Colonialism played a part in them. It had a role in delineating the borders of this region and left a heavy legacy in it. Hopefully the disputes will be resolved peacefully, by means that are stipulated in the UN and Arab League Charters. Every country has the right and authority to resort to them. Even resorting to the International Court of Justice must be done with the two parties' consent. You cannot drag a country to the International Court of Justice as if you were dragging an ordinary person to al-Muski Court [in Cairo] or al-'Attarin Court [in Alexandria]. Consent is a basic factor in finding a peaceful settlement. I believe that in some cases there are talks between the countries involved that could possibly resolve these differences.

I would like to refer to the issue of the three islands. The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has a very good legal case. The occupation of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra and the violation of the agreement on Abu Musa island have categorized Iran as a country that has violated international law.

The UAE wants a peaceful settlement with fraternal Muslim countries that have a role in the region that cannot be ignored. I am confident that the Gulf countries in particular and the Arab countries in general are eager to cooperate with Iran and find a peaceful settlement to this problem.

[Al-Sa'id] Isn't it being said that the GCC is trying to set up a Gulf league inside the Arab League, a state within a state?

['Abd-al-Majid] I do not believe that. There is strong cooperation between the Arab League and the GCC. GCC Secretary General brother 'Abdallah Bisharah recently visited Cairo, when a protocol of cooperation between the Arab League and the GCC Secretariat Generals was signed with him. I was also invited to visit the GCC and will do as soon as possible, God willing.

[Al-Sa'id] Wasn't the Arab boycott [of Israel] originally an Arab League decision, not one made by a state? I say this in view of recent statements attributed to Israel claiming that some Arab countries have expressed their willingness to end the boycott.

['Abd-al-Majid] Of course the boycott is a legal position with valid bases. I am speaking here about the legal

aspects that are certainly affected by political developments that cannot be ignored or disregarded. The boycott will remain as long as a state of war exists between some countries. The boycott will end when the state of war ends.

[Al-Sa'id] But doesn't it remain an Arab League decision, not a state one?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes. It is an Arab League decision, not one made by a state.

[Al-Sa'id] What about Lebanon and Israel's random and intensive shelling whenever it likes?

['Abd-al-Majid] We strongly condemn Israel's actions in Lebanon. We constantly condemn its illegal and illegitimate presence on Lebanese territory. The best way is for Israel to withdraw immediately from Lebanon so that the security it wants can be achieved. Israel's policy is worsening the situation, spreading tension, and harming the peace talks. Recent events have proved to Israel the futility of the theory that strength provides security.

Israel must withdraw immediately from Lebanon in line with Resolution 425, because this will bring about stability and security.

[Al-Sa'id] How true are reports of a crisis between the Arab League and Kuwait at the recent meeting of the environment committee that led to the Kuwaiti envoy's withdrawal from the meeting?

['Abd-al-Majid] The meetings are chaired in alphabetical order and it was Iraq's turn to chair the recent meeting. The Kuwaiti envoy decided not to participate. There was no crisis and the issue was dealt with wisely and calmly.

[Al-Sa'id] Iran, its actions in the Gulf, and its modernization of its defense are causing talk about the so-called theory of a vacuum in the region and its attempt to fill it. Is that not so?

['Abd-al-Majid] Thank God the Arab countries can fill this vacuum with their own strength, resources, and capabilities. Only the Arab countries will fill the vacuum in the region.

'Abd-al-Majid Sends Message on Palestine Issue

NC2811120792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that to realize peace and stability, Israel must withdraw from all Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 aggression.

He said the cause of the Palestinian people is the first cause of the Arabs. He pointed out that the Arab world cannot know peace and stability until a just settlement is found based on international and Arab resolutions and the Palestinian people's right to practice their inalienable national rights.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid clarified in a message he sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the occasion of World Day for Solidarity With the Palestinian People, which falls tomorrow, that any efforts to establish peace in the region that do not provide a systematic solution acceptable to the Palestinians and do not stem from UN resolutions, especially 242 and 338, will continue to be barren efforts with limited results.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed in his message the Arab League's confidence in the United Nations and in its resolutions, which are based on establishing a permanent and just peace in the Middle East region, and in its support on the Palestinian question and the continuing struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their natural and legitimate rights guaranteed by international charters.

He said the Arab region's people look to the future with great hope. He said that if everyone rallies round the principles of democracy and justice, adheres to the noble objectives and goals contained in the UN Charter, and shows commitment to the principles of international law and legitimacy, they will become more capable of realizing the humanitarian goals for which the United Nations was established, and for which it continues its efforts to establish international peace and security.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Meeting Begins in Jeddah

Officials Preview Meeting

LD0112153692 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Dec 1, SPA—The sixth extraordinary session of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] foreign ministers will focus on a review of the continuing deterioration in the situation in the independent Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, According to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In a statement to reporters at Cairo airport before his departure for Jeddah last night to attend the two-day session in the Saudi port city, starting this afternoon, Musa said the ministers will listen to reports to be presented by U.N. special envoy and former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and EC envoy Lord David Owen on the situation in this Muslim republic.

The ministers will be also addressed by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic who will highlight the plight of Bosnian people resulting from the continuing Serb aggression, Musa said.

The session will opt for a number of decisions to deal with this problem in the present and in future, he added.

In a related development, Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Fadzil said in a press statement today: The conference is very important for

member countries because of the serious nature of the problem faced by the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"They need concrete measures to deal with this problem. We have to help our brothers in Bosnia by pooling our material resources—and supporting them at this hour of agony and distress," he said.

His delegation is preparing proposals to resolve the problem.

Commenting on the nine-month old Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, its Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic said "My country's government turned to Europe because this is a European case. Europe has refused to deal with it. It turned towards the U.N. and asked for peace keeping troops one year ago. The answer was 'no.' So where in Bosnia-Herzegovina supposed to turn? Is it supposed to lie and die? Or is it supposed to *defend itself* which is an inherent right and also within the U.N. charter. "We are here (Jeddah) to ask for bilateral and multi-lateral help because the agonies can not go on forever...if the West is willing to wait and watch it (the death of Bosnia). The Islamic world is not," he said. [passage omitted]

More Delegates Arrive

LD0112160892 Riyadh SPA in English 1203 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, Dec 1, SPA—A large number of foreign ministers of member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) have arrived in Jeddah to attend their extraordinary conference, starting in the port city later today.

They were greeted by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Dr. Hamid Algabid the OIC secretary general, Saudi Foreign Under Secretary for Political Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansuri and other senior officials of the Saudi Foreign Ministry and the OIC as well as ambassadors of the Islamic states stationed in the Kingdom.

Those who arrived so far for the Islamic foreign ministers conference include 'Amr Musa (Egypt), Kamil Abu-Jabir (Jordan), Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al-Khalifa (Bahrain), Farouq al-Shar' (Syria), Tlemsani Smaru (Burkina Faso), Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabir (Qatar), Muhammad Siddiq Khan (Pakistan), Lakhdar Brahimi (Algeria), Al-Hamdi Jibo Kasma (Senegal) [name as received], Omar Sey (Gambia), Pascual Manuel Mocumbi (Mozambique), Muhamad Abdelkrimane Ould Moine (Mauritania), Ali Alatas (Indonesia), Habib Ben Yahya (Tunisia), (the foreign minister of Afghanistan), 'Ali al- Tarayki (Libya), (the foreign minister of Maldives), Alfred Serreqi (Albania), Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League also arrives in Jeddah last night to attend the Islamic foreign ministers conference.

The OIC ministers held an emergency session on Bosnia last June in Istanbul. This will be their sixth extraordinary meeting since the Organization of Islamic Conference was established in 1969 following the Israeli attempt to burn down the Aqsa Mosque.

According to press reports published today, the conference's agenda also include al-Quds [Jerusalem] and Palestine, which are permanent items on all Islamic conferences. The conference will also approve the admission of Albania, Kyrgyzstan and Zanzibar as new members of the OIC, raising the membership to 50.

OIC Secretary General Dr Hamid Algabid will present a comprehensive report on the activities of the organization and its efforts to end the plight of Muslim's in Bosnia.

Kenan Atakol, the foreign and defence minister of the Turkish Cypriot, Turkish Energy and Natural Resources Minister Mohammad Ersin Parahyali and Kuwaiti Labour and Social Affairs Minister Jasem Mohammad al-'Aun also arrived in Jeddah to attend the conference of OIC foreign ministers on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

King Fahd Opens Session

LD0112161392 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Opening speech by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to the opening of the Islamic Conference Organization's extraordinary session on Bosnia-Herzegovina in Jeddah—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God's prayers and peace be upon the most noble of messengers and prophets, our prophet. God's prayers and peace be upon him.

Thanks be to God who honored us by guiding us to Islam, the religion of mercy, fraternity, and peace, and which enjoins cooperation in good deeds and on piety. Verily God has stated: Cooperate in good deeds and piety and do not cooperate in evil deeds and aggression. [Koranic verse]

God's prayers and peace be upon the last of the prophets and messengers, our master Muhammad, and upon his family and companions until doomsday.

Your excellency the president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina; your excellency the president of the Albanian Republic; dear brothers.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. It pleases me today as we open this extraordinary meeting in this sacred land that is endowed with the light of prophethood, that radiates from Mecca and the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah, to welcome you in your second country, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, so that you may continue your mission [passage indistinct: a few seconds] and decide upon what will ensure the success of the task for the sake of which you have gathered, namely,

providing support for the wronged and helpless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I wish you success and sound decisions.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has based its foundation since its establishment on the guidance of the Koran and the Sunna [prophet's teachings]. In response to the call of its Islamic duty, it constantly and steadily continues its efforts and endeavors on the various Arab, Islamic, and international levels in support of the right and the oppressed and the ousting of the forces of oppression and aggression, coupled with the helping of the brothers everywhere.

Stemming from this Islamic and humane premise, brothers, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has paid special attention to the regrettable situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, whose people are being subjected to continued aggression by the Serbs aimed at obliterating the identity of the people of that republic.

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom has declared its support for the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the London conference.

For this reason, brothers, I see that we are dutybound to put our efforts together to ensure that these resolutions are seriously carried out in order to underline the need to guarantee the arrival of the humanitarian aid through the UN to the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in light of the growing ordeal they are now living.

It is known, brothers, that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, had from the start taken the initiative of offering help to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as to the people of Somalia. [passage omitted]

Brothers, with our deep appreciation of the efforts made by the UN, and with our support for all the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the latest of which was Resolution No. 787, providing for the tightening of the boycott imposed on Serbia and Montenegro because of their continuous aggression against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, we are of the opinion that in order to secure justice one must enable the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to get the weapons it needs for the purpose of the legitimate defense of its existence.

Brothers, the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, with all its hideous nature, will not make us forget for one moment the tragedy of the Palestinian people so long as the Israeli occupation is crouching on the first of the two Qiblis [Jerusalem and Mecca] and the place of ascension of the prophet, may the prayers and peace of God be upon him. We cannot but affirm our support and backing for all the efforts made to find a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Brothers, I must not overlook lauding the successful efforts made by Dr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, and his colleagues. [passage omitted]

Bosnian President Appeals for Help

LD0112201492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1338 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Speech by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at opening session of the Islamic Conference Organization's extraordinary session on Bosnia-Hercegovina, in Jeddah; in Serbo-Croatian with superimposed Arabic translation from English—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, I will speak to you in my original language and therefore beg the brother [interpreter] to translate it into English, and hope that he will be able to do so.

The brother custodian of the two holy mosques, the brother president of the Republic of Albania, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] secretary general, your excellencies, dear friends, and guests: I have listened with great care to the words that King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, addressed to us, and I completely appreciate these words that inspire us.

In this extraordinary session of the foreign ministers' conference, I also would like to thank those who called for this conference. I express my extreme respect for His Excellency Dr. Hamid Alghabid, ICO secretary general, and I express my greetings and thanks to all those attending, and ask the great and almighty God to assist us and direct us toward the straight path.

In the invitation to this extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers, we, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, have realized the keen interest in the future of our country's prosperity. If my people's tragedy has had a positive aspect, a good side—and all tragedies, in fact, contain something of this—then it is that the suffering [of the Bosnians] has enhanced the depth of the feeling of solidarity in the Islamic world, and this is a day for which we have been waiting for so long.

My address to you is short and it will mention neither statistics nor facts, because everything, or most of it, has been said, and the resolutions and commitments have remained empty words. The time is now ripe to take decisive action. The advisers have prepared a series of documents, tapes, and videos that talk about the unprecedented suffering of a civilized people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular women and children. We hope to see this exhibition that represents part of the evidence about the criminal aggressors who are assaulting my people. One of these tapes shows that this aggression is premeditated and deliberate. On this tape, we can hear the words of a person who condemns to death the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular

the Muslims, because they are expressing their right to freedom and sovereignty. That was on 15 October of last year during the session of the Bosnia-Hercegovina parliament. In other words, this is a deliberate and premeditated crime.

A nation of 2 million people, who have lived at the crossroads of two worlds, has been condemned. They belong to these two worlds, to the East in belief and traditions, and to the West in thinking and education. They have been condemned to death by an ethnic group from another race without any precedent or any cultural effects. We have warned the world that this is not only the issue of Bosnia, nor of the Balkans, but also the issue of Europe.

These operations have international implications. The genocide operation and the detention camps that rose in the heart of Europe such as the black camps indicate the ethical decline of civilization, which is a matter that concerns humanity as a whole. Unfortunately, civilization did not hear about us, and thus we remained alone in the battle to work for our own survival between an armed oppressive enemy on the one hand and between two-faced friends on the other.

But, why was this so? Why did the world and in particular its leaders fail today to see what is extremely clear? Is it because it is not Belgrade that is being besieged and exposed to annihilation, but Sarajevo? Is it also because it is not half of Serbia that is occupied, but it is Bosnia that is occupied? Is it because the group of 1 million refugees who have crossed Europe are Muslims and those who oppress them while they are running from the face of oppression [are Christians]?

Why instead of being provided with true protection in accordance with justice and international law are they having to pack up and emigrate to other lands? Is this due to any ethical weakness in today's civilization? Or is it because the victims are Muslims? When history is written and documents are revealed, these suspicions will prove to be true.

For this reason, I appeal for your help and support. You no longer can maintain neutrality or indifference. We hope that you will use your influence to ensure that the international community will shoulder its responsibilities toward a small country. Our Republic, which is internationally recognized as a member of the United Nations, has now fallen victim to aggression.

Legally and ethically, our cause is extremely clear. In accordance with the UN Charter, Bosnia-Hercegovina is a victim of aggression, [applause] and for this reason we call and hope for your [right] choice. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be on you.

Albanian President Speaks

LD0112180292 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1346 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Speech by Albanian President Sali Berisha at opening session of the Islamic Conference Organization conference on Bosnia-Hercegovina in Jeddah on 1 December, in English with superimposed Arabic translation—live]

[Excerpts] My brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques; my brother Alija Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Hercegovina; your excellency [Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] Secretary General Hamid Algabid; your royal highnesses, your excellencies the ministers, dear brothers: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, [passage omitted]. Allow me first of all to say how pleased I am at the possibility of admitting Albania to full membership of the ICO. We consider this to be an historic event in our relations and links with the Islamic world. [passage omitted].

The Albanian membership of the ICO is a very important event for Albania because it takes it into a new era in its bilateral and multilateral relations with the friendly and sisterly member countries of this conference with which we have strong historic, political, economic, spiritual, and cultural relations. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, we are meeting in this extraordinary session out of joint feelings and out of the revulsion we feel over the tragedy happening to the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The greed and savage acts of the Serbs are treading on sacred principles as well as on the principles of civilization at the present time. The Belgrade rulers are ridiculing the international community. A whole people is being subjected to complete slaughter. [Passage omitted].

The Serbs are planning to evict the Muslims to a narrow strip in an effort to deprive them of having a state. In an attempt to hide these sentiments, the Serbs are accusing Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina of being Islamic fundamentalists. This is an attempt to deceive and win over the Islamic world. Moreover, within the framework of the current religious crusader war, they believe that they have military superiority and that they are assured of victory over the others. This is an illusion on the part of those who have lost sight of the forces of history and human feelings. The Muslims who have been dispersed throughout Europe and whose homes have been destroyed are a wound in the body of Europe and humanity.

We support President Alija Izetbegovic and the legitimate government in Bosnia-Hercegovina in their efforts to safeguard their country's territorial integrity. Bosnia-Hercegovina is a member of the United Nations and, therefore, on the basis of the UN Charter, it is fully entitled to defend itself against an aggressor. Accordingly, the Republic of Albania supports Bosnia's request for the lifting of the arms embargo that has been imposed on it. In addition, the Albanian Government has agreed

to receive children from Bosnia in its territory to save them from the atrocities of war.

Albanians support the efforts made by the international community to find a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia and to prevent the conflict from spreading to the southern part of that country. Albania and the legitimate representatives of Kosovo appreciate the efforts made by Lord Owen and Mr Vance within the framework of the Geneva Conference, the measures adopted at the Istanbul Conference, and those adopted by the Security Council to check Belgrade's ambitions. However, everyday facts show that no substantial results have been achieved so far. What concerns us is the situation in Sandzak, Kosovo, and Macedonia.

The war in Bosnia-Hercegovina has not ended yet, and an eruption is about to take place in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the Serbian threat is increasing in intensity, and everyone can see that. The situation resembles that which prevailed on the eve of the aggression of the Yugoslav Federal Army against the people of Bosnia. What was not possible to do in the case of Bosnia-Hercegovina must be done in the southern part of the former Yugoslavia; in Sandzak, Kosovo, and Macedonia. [passage omitted]

From this rostrum and this meeting, I appeal to the international community and the Christian majority in Europe to denounce the aggressor and defend the Muslim minority in the continent. I would also like to urge the representatives of friendly and Islamic states that the time has come for them to unite their efforts and deploy all their political, economic, and military relations with various states, international bodies and, primarily, the ICO to organize a unified international action to end the criminal activities of the Serbian extremists in Bosnia and to prevent a conflict in Kosovo by disarming it and placing it under UN control as a neutral region.

This is the [Serbian] orthodox extremism which is annihilating children and killing people, and it is the one dressed up in white raping women and practicing terror and horror. Bosnia is witnessing horror that it did not experience in World War II. The contradiction is that this contradicts the Helsinki act, because some of those principles have been respected. What people find difficult to understand is how it cannot be described as an aggressor at a time when it does not act in this manner and upholds the embargo and the UN resolutions and assertions [as heard].

In line with this firm stance, Albania has agreed to place monitoring missions on its borders with former Yugoslavia. Albania has welcomed the dispatch of UN forces to Macedonia. Yet the sources of conflict in former Yugoslavia are the ambitions of [Serbian President] Milosevic to solve the nationality issue of the Serbs at the expense of the other peoples by means of war, and to turn his dream into reality by utilizing the armed forces of the former Yugoslav federation which are now in the hands of the Serbs.

Serbian fanaticism has led to bloodshed in Europe twice at the beginning of this century, and now for the third time. The military capabilities of the Serbs which are leading [as heard] the Balkans and Europe must be destroyed by force. This will facilitate putting an end to war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Also this will prevent the Serbian people from participating in wallowing in shedding of blood, which will be very costly to them.

Dear brothers, Albania believes the time has come for us to work and make clear to all that our will is to consolidate the noble principles of mankind which are enshrined in international laws and documents. This way we will be also working in accordance with the philosophy of Islam and also the justice of providence. My country is committed to carrying out its duty, realizing the endorsement by those who call for life and freedom and detest slavery. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Prince Sa'ud, Algabid Speak

LD0112215692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 1 Dec (SPA)—The proceedings of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference continued in their sixth extraordinary session at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, was elected chairman of the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference. His highness then made the following speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most noble of prophets and messengers our Lord Muhammad, may the best of prayers and peace be upon him. Your highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers, your excellencies the heads of delegations and members of delegations, your excellency the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], your excellency the secretary general of the Arab League, your excellencies the co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia—Minister Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, Honorable brothers, peace and blessings of God be upon you. [passage omits.]

Clearly this meeting of ours comes at a time when the ordeal of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina is worsening at the hands of the irregular Serb forces, backed by Serbia and Montenegro, which are waging an all-out war of extermination aimed at uprooting them [the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina] from their own homeland and their homes, thus perpetrating the most hideous human crimes with what is known as the heinous ethnic cleansing. Six months have passed since our meeting in Istanbul to support the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina

in its just struggle to preserve its sovereignty and independence, and to safeguard its territorial integrity, and also to examine the necessary measures to stop the Serb aggression. [passage omitted]

The evacuation of Sarajevo which is now taking place in some hotches heralds the disaster which is about to happen, unless the international community takes firmer and more deterrent measures against the Serbian aggressors, to stop them implementing their heinous plans. [passage omitted]

It must be stressed at the same time that what is now taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot in any circumstances be considered a civil war, and be dealt with on this basis. What is taking place there is in fact a tyrannical aggression against an independent sovereign state and a full member of the United Nations Organization: Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hence the matter should be dealt with in accordance with this criteria.

Honorable brothers, while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supports and contributes to the humanitarian aid efforts to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, it feels profound concern over the concentration of the international efforts on merely offering and transporting humanitarian aid and just helping the homeless and displaced on leaving their homeland. Therefore, it is imperative to take every necessary measure to stop the aggressive actions of the Bosnian Serbs with the backing and instigation of the government of Belgrade, to help the homeless to return to their places through an intensification of pressure on Serbia and Montenegro to force them to implement the international resolutions and the resolutions of the international conference which they agreed on. The duty of the Islamic states is to exert intensive efforts to transform the United Nations' participation in Bosnia-Herzegovina from merely a peacekeeping operation to one of peace-making and building. Under no circumstances should this participation be confined to securing the arrival of humanitarian aid however important that may be, or to a limited monitoring operation of repeated and deliberate violations of cease-fire arrangements made under the conditions of the aggressors and their local collaborators.

Dear brothers: The continuation of the Serbian aggression is waging a war of genocide on the basis of racial and religious principles contravenes all humanitarian and religious values and principles, a matter which dictates that the international community should stand strongly in the face of this hateful inclinations and dark intentions, and consider the condemnation of this aggression a joint international responsibility, in defense of justice, the principles of human rights and international legitimacy.

From this premise, we stress that the work of our conference should not be considered as an alternative to the international efforts being exerted in this respect. It complements in fact these efforts, consolidates them, and in particular the relevant resolutions of the London conference and of the Security Council. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers: Our Islamic nation is facing great challenges and grave responsibilities, and our peoples are pinning great hopes in your conference, a matter that requires from us the closing of our ranks, the concentration of our efforts, and standing together to demand from the international community of which we are part, to establish justice and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, which is an indivisible entity, to halt the tyrannical Serbian aggression and bring peace and security to our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. May God guide your steps and peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Then, His Excellency the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] [Hamid Algabid] delivered the following speech:

Your Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud Al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, your excellencies the foreign ministers of the ICO member states, brothers, peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

Today, the Serbs occupy a significant part of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Also the efforts that have been exerted to halt the Serbian aggression have failed and the Serbian forces continue their onslaught against the Muslims of Bosnia in the northern and the central sectors.

Moreover, ethnic cleansing campaigns against the Muslims continue. Thousands have been killed, thousands more have been detained, and thousands have been forced to flee en masse. And unless this matter finds an urgent and appropriate solution in accordance with the UN Charter, the international community and in particular the Security Council will have to abdicate their responsibility which lies in defending the basic principles which regulate the conduct of states and international law.

It has become clear that the Serbian authorities in Belgrade have been encouraged to continue their aggression in view of the absence of measures to implement the principle of collective security stipulated by the UN Charter to defend the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Bosnia.

We must work to find a solution to stop the Serbian aggression which are causing the deterioration of human conditions in Bosnia. If we follow the same course as before, we would say, as Lord Owen recently said, that the Serbian-Bosnian borders which were defined by force might freeze to become actual political borders. Therefore, we should be cautious not to hesitate lest we encourage the continuation of the crisis and its probable spread to other areas, especially Kosovo, Sandzak, and Macedonia.

Muslims in the entire world are asking why the UN Security Council was late and hesitant in implementing Chapter 42 of the UN Charter which allows the taking of every necessary measure to implement the relevant resolutions and London agreements. And why should we deny the Bosnian Government its right of legitimate defence as stated in Chapter 51 of the UN Charter. Whatever answers are given to these questions remain unconvincing.

I am totally convinced that this session will be capable of laying down a new strategy that will permit the foiling of the Serbian aggression and the mobilization of other resources to provide humanitarian action and to help in the national reconstruction of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia.

We have to exert our efforts in that direction here, in the United Nations Organization, and in other international organizations. [passage omitted]

Turkey Urges Harsh Measures

TA0112201492 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Coskun Kartal report from Jeddah]

[Excerpts] While the Serbian attacks are continuing in Bosnia- Hercegovina, many countries are exerting efforts to put an end to the aggression. The foreign ministers of 47 Islamic countries have met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in a bid to put an end to this tragedy. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Ersin Faralyali opened the second session of the meeting. Stressing that the UN Security Council should protect a UN member country, Faralyali added that in the event this is not realized then the right of Bosnia-Hercegovina to defend itself should not be prevented. He further expressed support for establishing military security zones for the displaced persons in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Meanwhile, the Turkish delegation that participated in the extraordinary foreign ministers meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization member countries engaged in intense contacts this morning to explain Turkey's theses to the other members. According to information we have obtained, the organization's African, Asian, and Arab groups held separate meetings headed by Faralyali. During these meetings, the Turkish delegation put forward various proposals as an addendum to the UN secretary general's report. The proposals in short note that Owen and Vance, the cochairmen of the Yugoslav Conference, have exerted positive efforts, but that they have proved to be insufficient. The Turkish delegation further stated that international laws have been violated in Bosnia-Hercegovina and that, given the current situation, the international community should take immediate action and enforce harsh measures.

It was stated that Turkey's views were generally accepted by the other member countries. Since this was an extraordinary meeting, Turkey deferred the term presidency to the Saudi foreign minister and assumed the office of rapporteur. The ICO foreign ministers meeting will end tomorrow.

Iran's Velayati Urges ICO Aid

LD0112184092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The extraordinary session of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] opened today with a speech by the Saudi king. The session, held at the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will discuss the terrible situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

This afternoon, in a speech at the session, Foreign Minister Velayati outlined the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. While expressing the deep concern and regret of the nation and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the atrocities committed by the Serbs against the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Velayati stressed the need for extensive effort by international organizations, particularly the ICO. He said that the rapes, confiscation of property, ethnic cleansing, and the extensive destruction of mosques in Bosnia-Hercegovina testifies to the concerted decision to annihilate Islam and destroy the prospects for setting up an Islamic government in Europe.

While proposing an ultimatum to the UN Security Council until the end of this Christian month, our country's foreign minister called for the mobilization of all facilities of Islamic countries in favor of the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina if the Serbs do not halt their acts of aggression by that date.

In conclusion, he declared the preparedness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with Islamic countries to give material and spiritual support to the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Malaysia Calls for Safe Havens

BK0212080092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Malaysia has demanded the creation of immediate safe havens in Bosnia and the lifting of arms embargo in the face of increasing Serbian attacks. Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said the United Nations Security Council should act against the Serbs who continue to violate the London peace accord and various Security Council resolutions. He is leading the Malaysian delegation to the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, in Jeddah.

Addressing the extraordinary session, he said the 47-member organization is deeply bound to demand the

lifting of the arms embargo. The creation of safe havens in various Bosnian civilian-populated centers within the framework of UN-protected zones is urgently required. Datuk Dr. Fadzil added that the United Nations and other international relief organizations should be allowed to airdrop relief supplies for Bosnian Muslims stranded in inaccessible areas under Serbian siege. The two-day meeting was opened by King Fahd.

The Malaysian deputy foreign minister said lifting of the arms embargo would give Bosnia-Hercegovina the right to self-defense in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Security Council, doing nothing about this, would be tantamount to punishing the victims and allowing the slaughter of Bosnian Muslims to continue.

Closed Session Held

LD0112230392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Dec (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries taking part in the sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, held their first closed meeting this evening at the Conference Hall in Jeddah under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister and chairman of the session. The ICO is expected to resume its proceedings tomorrow morning, God willing.

Second Closed Session Held

LD0212095192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Dec (SPA)— The sixth extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers resumed its proceedings this morning. The second closed meeting was convened under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister of Saudi Arabia, at the Conference Hall in Jeddah.

Discussion of the matters on the agenda will be completed during this session.

Bosnian President Meets Iran's Velayati

LD0112161192 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—President of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) Alija Izetbegovic said Tuesday that arms embargo against his country is "unfair and immoral."

He made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the venue of the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) over the Bosnian issue.

"The Security Council resolutions includes former Yugoslavia, and my country is not part of Yugoslavia, therefore, this embargo should be imposed on Serbia and Montenegro," Izetbegovic said.

Velayati elaborated on the Iranian efforts to nullify the arms embargo, and said it should be done quickly. He assured Izetbegovic that the Islamic Republic would do what it can to help Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He also regretted that he could not visit Sarajevo during his recent visit to Zagreb due to "lack of cooperation of certain western countries."

Foreign ministers of the 47-member OIC are currently in Jeddah to review the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina in a two-day meeting.

Velayati Urges Firm Measures

LD0112182692 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called for serious measures on the Bosnian crisis, and said if the current foreign ministerial session of Muslim states fails to reach any decision, another meeting should be held to resolve the issue.

Velayati was speaking in Jeddah to Asian member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) before the start of the 2-day emergency session called by Iran to resolve the Bosnia issue.

The Iranian minister briefed the gathering on his trip to Croatia earlier this week to study the worsening situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and said that all Muslim states should make efforts to save the B-H people.

He outlined the helplessness of the Bosnian Muslims against the attacks of the well equipped Serbian aggressors, and said necessary steps should be taken to beef up the legitimate defensive power of the Bosnian people.

"We should not be indifferent towards the B-H issue and wait for measures by the United Nations Security Council. Muslim states constitute 25 percent of the U.N. members, and should take the maximum advantage of their quantity," he said.

Velayati said the Muslim world has hopes attached to the emergency OIC session and called for adoption of measures to enable the B-H Muslims to defend themselves against the ongoing Serbian crimes.

He voiced the Islamic republic's full readiness to extend all kinds of cooperation to the OIC members in this regard.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Discusses Peace Talks

NC0112120192 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations, in Jerusalem by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dr. Hanan, welcome to the airwaves of the Voice of the Arabs radio.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Dr. Hanan, how is the peace process proceeding, particularly following the Palestinian delegation's meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand during his recent visit to the region?

['Ashrawi] The meeting was constructive and frank in that we discussed developments in detail and analyzed the results of the bilateral negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli level. We briefed him on the proposed Israeli formula as seen by the Palestinian side. We talked about the difficult issues, which cannot be overstepped, the question of land and applying the formula to it, particularly the expropriated lands and east Jerusalem. We also talked about the continuing violations of human rights, the issues of legislation, and the powers and authorities of the interim self-government. We moved on to the European role, specifically that of the French and especially in light of the absence of an effective role by the conference sponsors.

[Correspondent] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, French President Mitterrand announced for the first time his support for establishing a homeland and a state for the Palestinian people. He also announced that the PLO must be the sole legitimate representative and have a role in the Middle East peace process. Analysts believe such a statement represents a qualitative shift in French policy on Middle East issues. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this analysis?

['Ashrawi] We think this position is consistent with previous positions and continues the agreement of the Declaration of Venice and the Declaration of Madrid by the EC. France has always adopted positions or roles that are an improvement on other states' positions on the right of the Palestinian people to self- determination and its relations with the PLO as the legitimate leader and sole representative of the Palestinian people. The innovation here is that President Mitterrand announced this position in Israel and tried to convince the Israeli Government to talk with the PLO and work to establish this independent Palestinian state.

[Correspondent] And invited Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to visit Paris this month?

['Ashrawi] Of course, this is a positive development. This was not a definite invitation. He said Paris is open and that he is ready to meet with president 'Arafat. There are continuous contacts between the French Government and the PLO. The French position, as I said, is distinguished by this openness and neutrality in dealing with the two sides.

[Correspondent] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, there is another issue, that of the Palestinian leadership's postponement of a decision on participation in the eighth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks until 48 hours before the date. How do you interpret this decision?

['Ashrawi] First, there are requirements for the continuation and success of the process, which depends on the Israeli position and Israeli intransigence. It has become clear that the Israeli side is not dealing seriously with the facts, the principles, or the aims of this negotiating process. It is trying to impose a sort of legitimacy on its usurping of Palestinian territory and establishment of settlements. It is also trying to exclude Jerusalem from the negotiations. There are internal motives for the negotiating process that need clarification, intervention, and pressure to change this intransigent Israeli position. There are also outside factors that help to impose a positive climate on the negotiations, particularly the issues of human rights—on which we need effective intervention—and continuing violations in the occupied areas. These have harmed the process and will do so again. There are also factors pertaining to the positions of the sponsor states and their shouldering of their responsibilities. Furthermore, there is the role of the international community, which has indeed understood the unbalanced situation of a people under occupation negotiating with an occupying state. This occupying state is trying to exploit all methods of pressure, dictation, coercion, and political extortion to influence political decisionmaking.

[Correspondent] Recent reports said you might withdraw from the negotiations if the situation remains the same. What is your reaction?

['Ashrawi] We do not threaten to withdraw from the negotiations as a means of pressure. We say that the decision to enter this process was a political decision based on regional and international political factors. It is not easy to decide to withdraw nor will we use this as a weapon. We only say that we must not be taken for granted. The Palestinian side is independent in making its decisions. It has demands, principles, and national rights that it will not abandon. It will not let this process become a cover for undermining these rights or for giving a sort of legitimacy to the occupation. We are now trying hard to secure political and effective support for the Palestinian positions and rights. We are also trying to conduct this process in a more successful and balanced manner.

[Correspondent] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, a Palestinian delegation will visit Washington to meet U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton. What is the significance of this visit?

['Ashrawi] This visit has not materialized. There is a possibility of a meeting with President Bush before the end of his term. This may take place in the coming months, say December. As for an official meeting with President-elect Clinton, I do not think this will take place before his inauguration as President. Contacts are continuing on various levels to ensure a more effective U.S. role.

[Correspondent] Confederation with Jordan or Israel has recently been raised. Are you prepared to accept confederation with Israel?

['Ashrawi] This question is premature. I think we must first focus on an interim Palestinian self-government that can achieve Palestinian independence in the final negotiations. Then the Palestinians will decide about confederation with Jordan, Israel, or any other party. However, we cannot decide on confederation now. First, we must work for national independence. Then there will be a review, referendum, or a return to the PLO's democratic representational institutions to adopt the right decision.

[Correspondent] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, welcome again to the Voice of the Arabs radio.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Sha'th Rejects Israeli 'Partition' Offer

PM2711112892 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 4

[Report on interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the steering committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, by Farid al-Khatib in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the Palestine National Council Political Committee and the steering committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has announced that the Israeli delegation offered partnership in sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, excluding East Jerusalem. The offer is to "divide the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 into three parts: one to be under limited Palestinian control during the transitional phase, the second to be controlled by settlers during the transitional phase, and the third to be under joint administration, with Israeli military authorities taking charge of the camps and security considerations. The same partition theory applies to all other matters. There is to be a legislature for the Palestinians and a legislature for Israeli settlers, in addition to a joint legislature. The Palestinians are to have police in cities and villages, while there will be Israeli police in the settlements and an Israeli army to rule the other areas jointly with the Palestinians."

Dr. Nabil Sha'th noted that the Israeli offer "does not call for permanent autonomy, but, rather, geographical or territorial partition, proceeding from the idea of securing a territorial compromise. It also calls for establishing a transitional phase to lead to a final phase, in both of which an Israeli withdrawal takes place. It also says that discussing the territory issue is on the cards and the Palestinians's right to legislate can be discussed. They are claiming that new settlements have been halted and that settlement is no longer as rapid as it was in the past, that it is now limited to finishing building the houses whose construction started earlier, and that it does not include the construction of roads, streets, and government buildings, when they are expanding their settlement in occupied Jerusalem." [passage omitted]

Dr. Sha'th announced the Palestinian delegation's "complete rejection" of Rabin's plan as presented by the Israeli delegation, "because we do not accept, nor will we accept, that Palestinian territory be repartitioned or that a single inch of Jerusalem be forfeited. If Janin and Gaza are dear to us, Jerusalem is dearer and more precious." He said the plan is rejected "not because it steals land and violates international legitimacy and perhaps the guarantees the Americans offered to us and in which they regarded Jerusalem as an unannexed occupied territory to which all that applies to other areas of the occupied territories applies, nor is it because it violates justice, fairness, and human rights, but because it is a racist plan for an apartheid system." [passage omitted] He emphasized that "we cannot regard such a model as a basis for future negotiations" with the Israeli delegation.

On the two plans proposed during Rabin's and Shamir's eras he pointed out that "the outcome of both theories is completely rejected by us, because they are hostile and usurp our land. And we do not intend to forfeit a single inch of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967, especially Jerusalem."

Nevertheless he emphasized that "it is erroneous—indeed very erroneous—for some people to say that the Israelis have not changed a single letter (in their position) since the negotiations began."

He revealed that while Peres spoke of allowing the Palestinians to control 60 percent of their land, "the percentage 61.7 was offered to us" at the unofficial negotiations. Asked whether the disagreement between the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation was fundamental, Sha'th said: "The disagreement is very fundamental, since the two bases are different. We are calling for establishing a transitional government to which all the powers exercised by Israeli military and civilian rule, the Jordanian Government, or the former government in the Gaza Strip should be transferred—that is, full legislative, executive, and judicial powers with regard to territory, inhabitants, and natural resources, with the exception of those limited powers on which we agree jointly that they do not differentiate between the transitional rule phase and the full independent state and which primarily concern foreign security

and foreign relations, and which we believe the PLO is currently exercising through the Palestine state, and of which there should be no duality in exercising. This is because powers for foreign defense, foreign security, and foreign relations, including recognition, diplomacy, and diplomatic representation, should continue to be exercised through the Palestinian state and the PLO until we reach the final phase soon. Then an independent Palestinian state would be established on the territory, enjoying all powers at both domestic and foreign levels." [passage omitted]

Asked whether the Islamic movement represents a challenge to the Palestinian leadership, Sha'th said that the "Palestinian people are democratic." And I hope that Almighty God will never put us in the category (of those who elect their leaders at the rate of) 99.9 percent, as was done by other peoples. We do not want an inspired leader who gives orders to be obeyed by everyone or a great leader whose rule is accepted by everyone and with whom no one can discuss anything. This is the characteristic of Palestinian struggle which will be maintained, whether in the liberation stage or in the independent Palestinian state. So how can I oppose the right of Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) to express its opinion, its right to discuss, or its right to use democratic means in a bid to win over the Palestinian masses? But we differ with it when it resorts to any kind of dictatorial repression or tyranny. And we refuse to go to Iran to form an alliance against our internal positions toward it or toward any other state outside our arena. Alliances should be set up in our arena, on our territory, and among our people, proceeding from the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking over Palestinian territory and struggle for the aims agreed by the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatib] Will the Arab-Israeli negotiations be torpedoed in the era of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, who called for the Palestinian people's self-determination within an autonomy framework and referred the land-for-peace principle and the continuation of settlement building to the negotiations and who is also refusing to put pressure on Israel and stopped talking about the U.S. role as a driving force for the peace process?

[Sha'th] We will not be either optimistic or pessimistic. But we and all our Arab comrades and brothers reject any Clinton or Bush statements that violate our rights confirmed through the international legitimacy of the terms of the negotiations, and we cannot accept them in any way. Nevertheless, the U.S. president-elect's statement should not be exaggerated to express (a change in) U.S. policy, which has been expressed by a long series of official U.S. positions, which have not changed much since (former U.S. President Jimmy) Carter. They have changed partially but continued to reflect U.S. interests, not just the elected presidents' views. When Clinton assumes his responsibilities and becomes the U.S. president, the situation will be different. He will then refer to official files and papers and work according to them in a state of systems and institutions, not a state of individuals and leaders. What we are getting from Clinton's aides differs from the general statements made by him in this connection. [passage omitted]

Mahmud 'Abbas on Israel's Anti-'Arafat 'Campaign'

JN0212103592 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Dec 92 p 28

[Text] Moscow, WAFA [Palestine News Agency]—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas has said that tendentious Israeli statements are trying to accuse Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of obstructing the negotiations process. At the same time, these tendentious statements are trying to fabricate certain categories of Palestinian leaders, listing those who are " with or against peace."

He said that he is responding to these statements because they were made by the highest authorities in Israel, specifically by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Mahmud 'Abbas stressed that no Israeli or any other official has the right to interfere, from far or near, in the Palestinian affairs. Such interference is totally rejected and condemned.

He added that all the Palestinian main decisions, and even the decisions tackling details of the peace process have been adopted by the constitutional Palestinian establishments, and are being directly supervised by these establishments, especially the Palestine National Council, the PLO Central Council, and the Executive Committee.

He added that Yasir 'Arafat has always been the one to take the main initiatives that guide the steps of the Palestinian negotiator to real and substantial progress toward real peace. He assumes, practically and legitimately, in addition to his great nationalist tasks, the position of higher chairman of the committee that follows up the negotiations.

Mahmud 'Abbas went on to say that he does not rule out the possibility that the hidden objective of this unjust campaign against 'Arafat is to abort the peace process and hold the Palestinian leadership responsible for the failure of the process, in addition to other objectives.

He said the Israeli leadership is asked to meet its many commitments, which it tries to repudiate one after the other, instead wasting time and throw dust in peoples' eyes, and fabricating illusionary and baseless categories.

He said the Palestinian leadership has a unified concept of a lasting and just peace. He added that our efforts for the inalienable rights of our Palestinian people, topped by the right to self-determination, are carried out in a coordinated and integrated manner under 'Arafat's leadership.

Daily Reacts to Rabin's Remarks on 'Arafat, PLO

*T:40112192592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
1 Dec 92 pp 1, 11*

[Editorial: "Rabin's Remarks and Comparisons"]

[Text] At a time when Yitzhaq Rabin's government is moving seriously to abolish the Israeli law that bans contacts with the PLO's leadership and members, Rabin himself, in his recent political remarks, was inconsistent about the PLO and its leadership. A few days ago on the eve of French President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel, he saw in the leader president Yasir 'Arafat "an obstacle to peace." Although after only 24 hours 'Arafat answered that if he, that is 'Arafat, is an obstacle to peace, then Rabin is also an obstacle. Therefore, in order to overcome all obstacles and impediments, president 'Arafat renewed his frank invitation for a face-to-face meeting between himself and Rabin to make the peace of the brave. Rabin, however, turned down this invitation and two days ago repeated his old statements adding, this time, that he does not rule out negotiations with the PLO about the final status of the occupied territories. Then, he compared the PLO's situation after the establishment of autonomy to that of the Histadrut after the inception of Israel—meaning that it will have no influence! Rabin did not forget to apologize to Likud Party members for this "alarming" comparison as far as they and he himself is concerned!

In fact, we are neither interested in this Israeli comparison nor do we want to discuss the reasons for the Zionist "alarm" in comparing an Israeli institution with a Palestinian one, despite the dissimilarity that we see on the historical level in the legitimate and full representation of us by the PLO, under president 'Arafat's leadership, as a people and a cause, now and in the future.

At any rate, despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's inconsistency in his remarks, then his apology for some of these remarks, we believe that Rabin himself has begun to realize that the PLO is the only address for achieving peace with our Palestinian people whether in the transitional stage or in a permanent solution. Although he continues to reject this address for the transitional stage and believes that later on it might be practical, the facts are undoubtedly besieging him. What he heard, for example, from French President Mitterrand about the firmness and seriousness of these Palestinian facts should make him ponder, even though he might have answered in return that he is confident of the U.S. position, which is in total contrast to the French position.

We believe that the future belongs to these facts alone, because they are necessarily the source, content, and meaning of the aspired for peace.

Changes Expected in Negotiating Delegation

*T:40112141192 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic
30 Nov 92 p 1*

[Text] A senior Palestinian source has affirmed to AL-MANAR that fundamental changes are expected to take place in the negotiating delegation, among the negotiators, and in institutions inside and outside the occupied territories. The source disclosed that there is such growing discord within the delegation that it is causing concern and that individuals are behaving as if they alone are in charge. The Palestinian source added that the Palestinian leadership will incorporate new members into the negotiating team with a new negotiating strategy. The source believes that the Palestinian leadership wants to prove again to all parties that it alone is waging the negotiating battle and that any efforts to the contrary will not succeed.

Delegation to Multilateral Steering Committee Named

*T:40112141692 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
1 Dec 92 p 1*

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Muhammad al-Hallaj is expected to head the Palestinian delegation to the steering committee of the multilateral peace conference, scheduled to convene in London on 3 and 4 December.

Dr. Mustafa al-Barghuthi, Dr. Riyad al-Khudari, and Dr. Jad Ishaq from the occupied territories will participate in the delegation. Dr. Khalil al-Hindi and Dr. Yazid al-Sa'igh will join the delegation from outside the occupied territories.

Conference Postponed; Hamas Leader Comments

*JN0112102692 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Dec 92 p 29*

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Palestinian circles have said that an expanded popular Palestinian meeting that was scheduled to be held last week and attended by 186 representatives from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has been postponed.

Some circles note that it is not possible to hold a popular meeting in the way the PLO desires since there is strong Palestinian opposition to the appointment of 186 members, even if they are mayors or elected heads of popular, commercial, and economic organizations. This opposition is represented by 10 Palestinian factions, including three strong factions—Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. The PFLP and DFLP had already boycotted the meetings held by the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestinian leadership in Tunis about a week ago.

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, representative of the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, in Jordan, said that his movement would not take part in such a popular meeting although it had not been invited. He said his movement believes that since the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with Israel admits that these negotiations are deadlocked, the delegation should withdraw from them and should rely on both the Arab and Islamic dimensions to handle the conflict with the Jews and their entity—an entity that is not a legend, but which suffers daily from the flavitude of the intifadah and from the Palestinian people's stubborn struggle.

Ghawshah added that after more than one year since the Madrid conference, the Palestinian people, who responded to the call of the 10 factions that reject a political settlement and autonomy by staging a general and comprehensive strike on the black anniversary of the partitioning of Palestine on 26 November 1992, are convinced that the door is closed and that there is no way except to confront the occupation with a national Palestinian unity and to refer issues directly to the Palestinian people.

Ghawshah said that his organization, together with the other 10 factions, believes that it is time to conduct a popular Palestinian referendum and for the world to hear the Palestinian people's view on the so-called peace process, particularly the so-called self-rule. He noted that there is nothing new in the dialogue between Hamas and Fatah. He added that the 10 Palestinian factions, including the PFLP and the DFLP, are trying to enlighten the Palestinian people about the fact that the peace negotiations will merely produce a midget solution that conflicts with the Arabism and Islamism of Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

Hamas Accuses PLO of Leak to Germany

NC0112122092 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Nov 92 p 9

[Unattributed report entitled "Top Secret"]

[Text] One cause of the current tension between the Palestinian Fatah and Hamas Movements is that the latter suspects Fatah of having leaked information to the German authorities concerning the activities of Palestinian groups associated with [slain PLO military wing commander] Abu-Jihad, or Khalil al-Wazir. Acting on this information, the German authorities recently arrested a Palestinian group and charged its members with conspiring to carry out acts of sabotage against U.S. and Western interests in Germany.

Hamas leaders confronted Yasir 'Arafat with this accusation at a recent meeting in Khartoum. The meeting, attended by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese Islamic Front, was arranged to resolve the differences between the two movements. These differences, however, only worsened as Hamas pointedly accused senior Palestinian officials, including [Palestinian envoy to Tunisia] Hakam Bal'awi, of leaking sensitive information to the German authorities.

Algeria

Bouhired Returns From Visit to Tripoli

LD2911153492 Algiers APS in English 1317 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Algiers 29 Nov (APS)—The foreign affairs minister, Lakhdar Brahimi, was back on Saturday to Algiers after a two day working visit to Libya. During his stay in Tripoli, Lakhdar Brahimi was audienced by the head of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The head of the Algerian delegation had, also, talks with the Libyan minister in charge of Maghreb affairs and the Arab world, Jumu' al-Qadhdhafi, who is also secretary in chief of the union affairs. The materialization of this visit shows Algeria's constant concern to preserve gains achieved in the field of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and the necessity to carry on the Maghrebin edification.

It is worth recalling that Algeria sent, during the last summit of the UMA held in November in Mauritania, a delegation led by the president of the Higher State Committee (HCE), Ali Kafi, whereas Libya, considering the situation it is facing, was represented by its ambassador accredited to Morocco. On another turn, Algeria has a clear position as for the embargo imposed on Libya, the observers indicated. While denouncing terrorism, the UMA, the [word indistinct] League and the Islamic Conference Organization expressed their solidarity with the Libyan brotherly people and insisted on the necessity to respect the international law and [word indistinct].

Unions, Councils Linked to FIS To Be Dissolved

LD2811125492 Paris Radio France Internationale in French 0638 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] [Studio announcer] The toll has been very high in Algeria after one year of repression against the Muslim fundamentalists of the FIS. In the tug of war between the Algerian authorities and the movement of Abassi Madani, 535 people were killed, 596 people were wounded, and 2,500 people were certainly arrested. These three figures were quoted yesterday by the newspaper LE MATIN, on the third anniversary of the attack of barracks by an Islamic fundamentalist commando in southwestern Algeria. Kamel Djaider, it is the first assessment with figures that we get and it is an impressive one.

[Correspondent Djaider] Yes, an assessment was made yesterday by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam in the presence of his minister of interior, many prefects, and the highest officials responsible for security. A very high toll indeed, as you said, but there are substantial results. The number of attacks has diminished very noticeably. Crowds no longer exit from mosques on Fridays with a connection, and there are no clashes with the police. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] propaganda doesn't reach the population anymore, and finally various basic structures and many connections of the Islamic fundamentalists have been completely destroyed. Only some very determined groups of armed desperados remain active, around which the security stranglehold becomes tighter day after day.

Next Friday is the expiration date for the partial amnesty that has been offered to those who are not responsible for murder who surrender to the authorities. Around 60 men are reported to have already surrendered and, to become completely free, some, as the rumors go in Algiers, have talked. Belaid Abdesselam has declared that the groups that are still active have been identified; the war that he has waged will very quickly intensify. Almost 400 municipalities, trade unions, and cultural and charity associations still controlled by the FIS will be dissolved. Even the printing of the Koran, yes, is forbidden without the prior permission of the Ministry for Religious Affairs. And in spite of all this, the newspaper LE MATIN, about which you talked a few minutes ago, thinks that three to five years are needed before Algeria gets back to the peace it enjoyed before.

[Studio announcer] And to prove that the government does not want to seem to be off guard, yesterday 18 members of the dissolved FIS were arrested in Bassa and Tiaret. Two people have been killed by the police. It happened at a road block near Meftah. The government has decided to speed up operations in the anti-terrorist struggle, in particular by dissolving the town councils and the trade unions close to the FIS.

Government Outlines Economic Measures

LD0112234792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] The Government Council issued a statement this evening in which it summed up the outcome of the series of meetings it held between the 15 and 30 November under the chairmanship of Belaid Abdesselam, the head of the government. These meetings were devoted to examining the draft financial bills and the employment and equipment budget for 1993.

The statement explained that the financial bill and the budget were favorable means for realizing the government's program; they embody the political and social options of the government, and are contained within a medium-term strategy with the aim of normalizing the conditions and getting out of the deep and multi-faceted crisis in which the country has been living for a number of years.

In spite of the critical economic situation and the austerity measures aiming at easing the weight of the obstacles which are hindering the economy, apart from guaranteeing the security of persons and property and the struggle against terrorism, the government has decided to intensify its activities for the benefit of the most deprived social sectors and to create favorable conditions for genuine economic development beginning from

1993. Therefore, the principles of practicing austerity in running the economy and mobilizing the domestic financial and material resources of the country, and the promotion of national solidarity and social justice, should guide the actions of the government and of the economic operators and all the citizens.

The government's economic and social action will be focused on the following:

—Setting up a national solidarity fund for three years with the aim of highlighting national harmony and ensuring that those with higher incomes will contribute to rebuilding the homeland.

—Creating a tax on patrimony based on the net cash value of the patrimony, except for elements which constitute means of production or are necessary for work.

—Protecting and developing domestic production in addition to tax and tariff measures for the benefit of the sectors of agriculture, craftsmen, and the small, medium, and tourism industries.

—Encouraging foreign investment in its various forms, which will be complemented by the investment bill, now under preparation.

—The budget options are implemented through the operations of promoting the education and training system for the benefit of the youth.

—Continue to subsidize the prices of consumer goods in great demand.

—Support the more deprived social sectors.

—Encourage agricultural production through finding a solution to the rate of interest.

—Bring about financial rehabilitation of the enterprises.

—Reintroduce the program of providing social housing and the reactivation of major infrastructure projects which are based on the use of domestic elements, giving priority to the housing, agriculture, water, and public works sectors and the process of making reserve places accessible.

—Ensure administrative supply to the country and especially the south.

—The draft financial bill for 1993 and the employment and equipment budget projects for 1993 have been endorsed by the Government Council and will be submitted to the Higher State Council.

The draft bill relating to the national plan for 1993 will be studied during this month before its submission to the Higher State Council accompanied by a report on the medium-term prospects of the government program which sums up the economic and social activities of the country during the next three years.

UGTA Leader Escapes Assassination Attempt

LD0112192092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Algerian Workers' General Union [UGTA] General Secretary Abdelhak Benhamouda this morning escaped an attack against him as he was leaving home. Mr. Benhamouda, accompanied by his wife and his two children, was attacked by two men armed with automatic pistols who fired at his car and injured his driver in the leg. The Trade Union Federation said Mr. Benhamouda and the members of his family were not injured in the attack.

The reaction of the UGTA: The federation states its strong condemnation of the dastardly and odious attack and assures Abdelhak Benhamouda of its solidarity and sympathy on behalf of trade union officials and workers. The authors of this action are targeting the UGTA as a whole, the federation states. The UGTA considers itself as being a patriotic and active force which intends to continue the historic and national mission that dictates its current political, economic and social tasks. In these circumstances, which it describes as serious, the UGTA national secretariat calls on workers to close ranks around the federation and show vigilance in order to counteract Algeria's overt enemies.

Blida Official Seriously Injured in Shooting

LD3011104592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Public order: The director of town planning and building for Blida Wilaya has been seriously injured; he was in his vehicle today when individuals armed with automatic pistols fired at him. The victim was first taken to the [word indistinct] clinic in Blida before being transferred to Ain Naadja hospital because of the seriousness of his condition.

Egypt

Envoy Assures No Iranian Presence in Sudan

EA0112104192 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, the Revolution Command Council chairman's envoy to the Egyptian president, has said the message he delivered on 29 November to President Mubarak concerned the constant consultations between the two Nile Valley peoples and the development of bilateral relations. His excellency stressed Sudan's determination to improve relations with Egypt. He said President Mubarak was working toward the same end in Sudan.

Referring to the Halaib problem, al-Sayyid confirmed that a joint committee was working to solve it. The problem obstructing bilateral relations had been discussed and a decision made to solve it through a fraternal dialogue.

Turning to reports of threats to Egyptian security, the president's envoy stressed that nothing in Sudan was threatening Egypt, adding that Sudan stood with Egypt in the same trench and had fought on Egypt's side and in defense of Egypt in every battle. He said: We will not let anyone threaten Egypt from Sudanese territory.

He denied that there was any Iranian or other military presence in Sudan.

Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan Said Planning To 'Shake Security'

NC0112110492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 1

[Text] Confessions of suspects involved in attacks on tourists have revealed a terrorist plan to strike at tourism and important installations, assassinate several personalities, create disturbances, and shake security and stability in Egypt.

A responsible security source has asserted that the security authorities are continuing their efforts to determine who is financing the terrorists in light of their confessions and the findings of current investigations involving three Egyptians and two others—of other nationalities—who were arrested two days ago [25 November] trying to smuggle 35 kg of gold via al-Salloum crossing [on the border with Libya].

The source said preliminary confessions reveal that the gold, estimated at over one million pounds, was intended to fund terrorist operations. Major General Dr. Bahr'-al-Din Ibrahim, first assistant minister of interior, has confirmed that preliminary information suggests Iran, Afghanistan, and Sudan are involved in financing and training the terrorists.

Pro-Iranian Organizations' Presence Viewed

NC2711121192 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 23 Nov 92 pp 10-12

[Report by Hamdi Rizq: "10 Iranian Organizations in Egypt"]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that at the request of higher security departments, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is studying a proposal to reduce the number of Iranian diplomatic mission members in Cairo and expel 'Ali Asghar Mohammadi [name as published], Iranian charge d'affaires in Cairo, after having been found to be involved in several hostile and intelligence operations against Egyptian national security.

This is the latest news in the current state of affairs between Cairo and Tehran, which is going from bad to worse, so much so that the situation last week evoked the day when Cairo, following the late President al-Sadat's invitation, received the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlevi, who fled for his life from the hands of the Iranian revolution youth. More important than the news are the details of what happened behind closed doors regarding those relations and what led them onto this thorny course when everyone thought full ties between the two countries would be restored, embassies would be reopened, and flags would be hoisted imminently.

Higher security sources have told ROSE AL-YUSUF that events were expected. The past six months saw many hostile acts sponsored by Tehran against Cairo through Khartoum. They were carried out by extremist terrorist organizations and information circulating in Egypt proved that Tehran was behind them and that they received full backing from it. The details are as follows:

On a hot, damp night in July 1992, an important Egyptian guest landed at Tehran International Airport. The Iranian Foreign Ministry treated the visit with the utmost secrecy and remained silent about his arrival, which had been in response to an invitation by the Iranian intelligence service. The guest, who disappeared following his arrival, was 32-year-old Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri, one of the most prominent members of al-Jihad Organization based in Peshawar, the Pakistani province near the Afghan border. According to information we received on this ambiguous visit, Iranian intelligence promised al-Jihad's envoy "The Doctor" to coordinate with the Hasan al-Turabi-led Islamic Front in Sudan to open the front's camps in Shandi, Khartoum North, and Omdurman to all al-Jihad elements returning from Afghanistan after the end of the liberation war there. These elements had difficulty entering Cairo; security men were awaiting their arrival. The information also added that Tehran promised to assign pro-Iranian Lebanon's Hizballah leaders the task of training these elements and supplying them with money and weapons in exchange for joining what Iranian intelligence calls the "Arab Liberation Battalions." These Iranian-sponsored battalions have a training camp near the Iranian city of Mashhad. This camp, the largest Islamic fundamentalist camp inside Iran, houses approximately 800 extremists, mostly Egyptians.

Upon al-Zawahiri's return to Peshawar carrying the generous Iranian offer, his companion Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli [brother of al-Sadat's assassin Khalid al-Islambuli] headed for Lebanon at the invitation of Hizballah to agree on ways to implement the Iranian offer and to get acquainted with the mission of the "Egyptian Liberation Battalion" to be formed upon arrival in Khartoum. During his visit of over a month, al-Islambuli visited Hizballah camps in southern Lebanon that are modeled after the Iranian revolution camps in Qum, Khomeyni's birthplace. The camps in Khartoum, which house 2,000 Hizballah fighters, are also modeled after the Iranian camps.

Following al-Islambuli's return [to Peshawar], al-Jihad fighters began to get out of Afghanistan via Yemen and Tehran to Khartoum. They avoided passing through Saudi Arabia, which took precautions against the transit of these pro-Iranian elements on its territory. In the few months that followed al-Islambuli's visit, approximately 500 Egyptian extremists arrived in Khartoum. They are

now present in Hizballah camps and are ready for a signal to move from Tehran.

A senior Egyptian security source has stated that Iran was more than anxious for such visits in a bid to mend the broken ties with the extremist Egyptian organizations, particularly al-Jihad group and the Islamic Group, now the most active organizations in the Egyptian arena. This follows the retirement of liaison coordinator Hasan al-Hilbawi, the prominent member of the Technical Military College Organization [group tried for attempting to overthrow the regime in Egypt in 1974], who quit political life and broke off his contacts and visit to Iran after having been found to be involved in Supreme State Security Case No 496 in 1989, known as the case of Shiites of Alexandria. Since then he has been put under security surveillance.

The same source added that Iran seized the available opportunities to broaden its circles of contacts with al-Jihad elements in Cairo and Peshawar. The secret visits by officials in these groups to Tehran increased noticeably, arousing the concern of the Egyptian Interior Ministry, which asked the Foreign Ministry to protest to Tehran over this issue. Strangely, Iran paid no attention to the Egyptian protests and continued to expand its circles of activity on Egyptian territory. Agents moved everywhere and the front of Egyptian Shiites, led by (regional liaison coordinator) Egyptian doctor Fahmi al-Shinnawi became active. Al- Shinnawi held several contacts with Iranian charge d'affaires in Cairo Muhammadi, who considers al-Shinnawi as Tehran's man in Cairo.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry reports indicate that the timing of the activity by Iran and its Shiites in Cairo brings back to mind the Shiite tide in Egypt (in 1987-1989), during which three Shiite organizations were uncovered. They include Supreme State Security Case Number 401 in 1987, known as the Organization of Vanguards; Supreme State Security Case Number 431 in 1988 (the first Shiite organization); and Supreme State Security Case Number 496 in 1989 (the second Shiite organization). The reports added that Iran recruited new elements in Egypt to serve Iranian interests, including a professor and head of the Eastern languages section at 'Ayn Shams University, who worked as an internal coordinator in conjunction with Dr. al-Shinnawi. Dr. al-Shinnawi enjoys full Iranian care for once supervising the treatment of Khomeyni. The 'Ayn Shams professor has close links with the cultural adviser to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The list of recruits also includes Dr. Ayman 'Abd-al-Khaliq, one of the defendants in the case of the Vanguards Organization, who is currently in the Libyan capital. He, along with three other Egyptians, was observed by Egyptian security to have attended a four-month orientation course sponsored by the Iranian intelligence service in the Indian city of Punah to study the future of the Shiite doctrine in the Arabian region. He returned to the Libyan Jamahiriyah and avoided entry into Egypt.

Strangely, the same reports cite several Iranian attempts to spread its elements in Cairo in a suspicious way. For instance, Iranian charge d'affaires Muhammadi asked the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to receive four Iranian experts, invited by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture to take part in a festival of Arab horses in al-Sharqiyah. The Egyptian Interior Ministry rejected the request on the grounds that the arrival of these four experts, who are all from the Iranian intelligence service, constitutes a threat to Egyptian national security, adding that they seek to contact the Shiite community in al-Isbarah area in al-Zaqaziq, one of the most important Shiite communities in Egypt. This aroused Muhammadi's indignation and he reported to his Foreign Ministry that the Egyptian Interior Ministry was obstructing progress in bilateral relations. Another example is the Egyptian Interior Ministry's refusal to let the Iranian mission open a Persian cultural center and an Iranian heritage library in Cairo through the Indian Embassy, which looks after Iranian interests in Cairo. A security source described these moves as an Iranian attempt to spread its agents in Cairo and open a parallel line of communication with its agents in Egypt in the wake of the recent liaison attempts made by its agents, particularly Dr. al-Shinnawi. In the face of the repeated refusal, Iran decided to take advantage of al-Turabi front in Sudan by means of the agents of al-Jihad and the Islamic Group.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Shafi, one of the most prominent leaders of the Islamic Group in Cairo, does not deny that the group has elements in Khartoum, which he said total over 100 and described as immigrants. He does not deny that group elements are in contact with Iran, but he stressed that the contacts are personal and are not part of the group's exterior program, which he declined to specify.

Information received by ROSE AL-YUSUF shows that the group has well over 500 members in Afghanistan and that some have already left for Khartoum after al-Zawahiri's visit to Tehran, although the visit concerned al-Jihad Organization. The information indicates that the groups' members joined al-Jihad camps in Khartoum run by over 2,000 Hizballah fighters.

Plans were drawn up to execute operations in upper Egypt with Iranian money and weapons, as confirmed by Agriculture Minister Yusuf Wali during popular congresses in Cairo and the governorates.

According to a responsible security source, the operations were nipped in the bud after 15 members of the Afghanistan Revolutionaries Organization [ARO] were arrested. The defendants admitted that they were trained by Iranian fighters in Peshawar and Khartoum and that they planned to assassinate ranking political and security officials, including Dr. Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to President Mubarak; Major General Mustafa Kamil and Major General Muhammad Hasan Tantawi, former directors of state security; and Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

The revelations of the defendants, particularly those made by the official in charge of armaments, "Sharif," confirmed that they received instructions from Mustafa Hamzah, alias Abu-Hasim, leader of the Islamic Group in Bilbis, Bani Suwayf. Hamzah is now a fugitive in Peshawar and is affiliated with Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, an organization member, and enjoys good relations with Lebanon's Hizbollah. They were instructed to move from Alexandria to Cairo to carry out the operations, which were financed by Iran through Khartoum.

State security's reports confirmed that over 10 organizations similar to the ARO were uncovered last year. They were armed and financed by Iran. The final report on the condition of Egyptian national security after the liberation of Kuwait showed that 86 groups were seized. At least 10 were Iranian who had infiltrated Egypt and tried to exploit the freedom of its Shiite movement to carry out operations to destabilize the Egyptian situation. This prompted the Egyptian Interior Ministry to recommend that the Iranian contacts in Egypt with all the state's organizations should be made through diplomatic channels [...] that personal contacts should be banned to prevent any new Iranian infiltration of Egyptian national security.

Iran, Sudan Seen Colluding To Break Arab Ranks

NC0212113592

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 27 November publishes on pages 1 and 3 its "Calmly" column in which Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor and chairman of the newspaper's board of directors, writes an approximately 3,500-word article entitled "The Iran of Hegemony and the Sudan of al-Turabi."

In his introduction, Nafi' presents the view: "We will endure another tense period—it will not be short—of deep, heated confrontation to limit Iran's ability to break Arab and Islamic ranks, to confront Iranian hegemony schemes, and to avert the dangers Iran poses to pan-Arab security and the strategic and vital interests of the Arab nation." He elaborates on Iranian plans to strike at Egypt in various ways and claims that collusion between Iran and Sudan, represented by al-Turabi, the leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front, has also become clear. He proposes going back to the roots of the problem.

Nafi' reviews the role of the "colonialist powers" in the Middle East, whose policy in the region rested on three axes: "The first was to attempt to foment feuds and disputes between the region's countries and peoples; the second was to directly or convincingly threaten these countries and their rulers; and the third was to isolate these countries from Egypt and then continuously try to weaken Egypt's role and its ability to effectively perform its duty on the regional level." Nafi' says that when the "colonialist" countries' rule was over, regional countries attempted to inherit it, using the same colonialist methods. "Iran was at the forefront of these countries," he insists.

"By Iran," Nafi' clarifies, "I mean Iranian Governments, because the people—who are powerless—will continue to reject this policy."

Nafi' claims the Khomeyni regime used these methods. "In addition," the writer adds, "this regime hid behind the slogan of the Islamic revolution to infiltrate near and far Arab countries and force them to submit to its orders on the grounds that it represents the conscience of the Islamic nation, expressing its cultural truth and its original identity and rejecting Western values and lifestyle." Through this "new thinking," the new Tehran rulers found receptive elements willing to perform the role of agent in these Arab countries, Nafi' says.

This "new thinking," the writer maintains, was implemented by six methods. Iran used Islam and the Islamic revolution as a "Trojan Horse" to infiltrate the Arab countries. This was quite easy to do, because the Arabs were weak, he says, adding that it also used the Iraqi threat to frighten the Arabs into believing that the danger is within rather than without. "Sadly, Saddam Husayn's reckless policy nurtured this Iranian theory," the writer laments. He suggests: "The regime in control of the government in Tehran is a secret regime that believes in the principle of self-protection [al-taqiyyah], allowing those belonging to it to show feelings other than those they believe in and to hide their true motives by cheating and camouflage. This allows them to misguide some elements in some Arab countries—elements that are not fully alert." Nafi' asserts that Iran gave the Arabs the impression that it opposed their enemies, such as Israel, when really it colluded with it, as Irangate revealed. "The presence of some border and other disputes among some Arab countries in the Gulf, plus some other policies, opens a gap in the steadfast wall of the Arabian Gulf before Iran's hegemony schemes," the writer notes. He says the end of the Afghan war released many Arab fighters there, allowing Iran to train and use them in acts of violence.

Nafi' contends: "There are other factors that restrict Iran's ability to break the Arab and Islamic rank." One of the most important is that Iran is Shiite, whereas most of the Arab world is Sunni. "This sectarian aspect," the writer believes, "isolates this regime from the Sunni majority in the Arab world, which does not accept the idea of splitting up the Arab nation into clashing parties and insists on the nation's unity." He goes on: "Iran could not conceal its Persian anti-Arab sentiments and has threatened to spread its control to communities in the Gulf countries of Iranian origin." Iran's attempts to build its military arsenal reveal its true intentions, Nafi' states. "They reveal very clearly that this armament is meant for the Arab countries in the Gulf, including post-Saddam Iraq," not Israel or the West.

Nafi' goes on to suggest that Iran's policy in southern Lebanon shows it wants to obliterate the Arab identity of the people there and give them a Persian identity instead, which could threaten Arab security. "In Lebanon alone, Tehran spends over $30 million a month,

because it places great importance on creating a Shiite belt that depends on it in the heart of the Arab world, extending from Iran to southern Iraq and all the way to southern Lebanon on the Mediterranean Sea." Nafi' contends.

He claims: "Iran publicly and flagrantly threatens some Arab countries in the Gulf." Such threats were accompanied by practical steps to strengthen their credibility, he says, setting out to prove this idea by citing "the example of Iran's occupation of the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra."

Iran, the writer claims, found it necessary to have an agent regime in the region do its dirty work for it. The writer believes: "It found its misguided entity in al-Turabi's Sudan, which does not express the true policy of the fraternal Sudanese people." Nafi' goes on: "It seems that al-Turabi's movement, the National Islamic Front, noticed common ground between it and Iran" so "it offered to play the role of agent for the Iranian regime."

Nafi' maintains that Iran chose al-Turabi Front out of its desire to achieve the following goals:

First: "To fight Egypt and attempt to exhaust and deplete its resources by exporting Iranian-backed terrorism ... [ellipsis as published] from Sudan."

Second: "To use Sudan as a tool to threaten and deter all Arab countries in north Africa and prevent them from confronting these schemes to impose hegemony on the Arab nation."

Third: "To use Sudan to penetrate the African countries and infiltrate their communities, using 'African faces' that do not raise doubts or suspicions." Nafi' maintains that Sudan wants to open embassies in African and Islamic countries and needs funding to do so, which Iran provides. Iran can exploit these embassies for its own personal objectives, to plant spies among the masses or in these countries' governments, he says.

Nafi' discusses how Iran and its agents might operate in these countries. "They will depend on some institutions that have been transformed into tools that submit to their directives and control," the writer says, citing the "African Islamic Center" set up by seven Arab countries—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Sudan.

The writer maintains that al-Turabi Front implements the Iranian scheme by dispatching Sudanese preachers who belong to Iran to work in mosques in the targeted African countries. He says: "A Sudanese imam was recently arrested in the Niger capital as he delivered the Friday sermon in one of the city's major mosques. In his sermon, he called for armed jihad and rebellion against the ruling regimes and using other Iranian Islamic revolution slogans."

Nafi' notes that some preachers recently sent to the newly independent Islamic states of the former Soviet Union are Sudanese and Jordanians belonging to al-Turabi's Front and Jordanian fundamentalist organizations. They belong to Hamas and the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization [of Jordan], he says, adding: "Recently Iran declared that it recognizes Hamas as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian struggle."

Nafi' considers: "Could Iran have caused so much destruction if the Arabs' situation had not been as it is now?" He calls on everyone to think hard about what he has written and to try to answer the question. He ends his article by suggesting: "The danger this time comes from the internal front, which could easily be penetrated through Iran under fake slogans that use Islam as a cover, a religion that has nothing to do with these slogans or with schemes that attempt to impose hegemony and control."

Musa Discusses 'Differences' With Syria Over Iran

NC0112193992 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASAI in Arabic 26 Nov 92 p 1

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the situation in the Gulf is extremely apprehensive due to a lack of balance there and the emergence of some policies hinting at hegemony and imposition by force. He said this will lead to disorder, tension, and numerous problems in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Musa said that the Damascus Declaration is now collapsing after having faltered for some time. The members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have different views on the Declaration, he said. He added that some parties sympathize with Iran, and this is the secret of our differences with our brothers in Syria. These differences, however, do not harm cordial bilateral relations between the two countries, and Egypt is concerned about pan-Arab security, Musa said. [passage omitted]

Libya Said Planning 'New Initiative' on Lockerbie

NC0112162192 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1447 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—New Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir will arrive in Cairo in the next few days for a series of extensive contacts regarding the Libyan crisis with the West. He will meet with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss Egypt's endeavors to end the crisis. Al-Muntasir is expected to advance a new Libyan initiative to hand over the three [number as received] defendants in the "Lockerbie" issue. The new initiative does not include the conditions the United States, Britain, and France—the three countries involved in the crisis—previously rejected. The three countries sent a fresh warning to Libya on Thursday. Al-Muntasir also will meet with diplomatic officials from two of the three countries involved during his stay in Cairo.

A Libyan diplomatic source has denied recent news agency reports that Egypt has decided to relinquish its efforts to end the crisis. The diplomat added: Egypt's role in this issue is instrumental and coordination continues with Egyptian officials, who are holding important contacts. Everybody is aware of the prominent Egyptian role, which seeks to avoid tightening the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, he added.

Security on Libyan Border Increased

MCB1121940892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Nov 92 p 1, 2

[Report by Ashraf Hamid and Zakariya Fikri]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry has started to implement a plan to tighten control of the land exit points in al-Salloum [on the Libyan border] and other little known tracks that terrorist groups may use to infiltrate the country. The al-Salloum point has been beefed up with antiterrorist units and modern equipment to search people and vehicles. The control and search operations are carried out in coordination with Libyan authorities.

Suspected passengers in vehicles coming from Libya are thoroughly searched, especially those arriving in Libya from Sudan and wishing to visit Egypt. [passage omitted]

UAE Satellite Request Called 'Test' of US Policy

MCB1230881092 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 14

[Kamil Zuhayri column: "Through the Keyhole"]

[Text] The JERUSALEM POST reported that Israel is up in arms because the United States is studying a United Arab Emirates [UAE] request to buy a satellite used for military purposes in order to take pictures of the Gulf region and forewarn of the dangers that might erupt there.

The paper added that the U.S. Administration is divided between those who favor and those who oppose the sale. Those in favor of the sale say that the United States is facing competition from France, which is willing to sell the same type of satellite that can do the same job and that France will make an offer if the United States turns down the request. Other departments are opposed because they are against the transfer of advanced technology to other countries. The reason for this Israeli clamor, especially in military circles, is that this sale will infringe on the sacred principle of maintaining Israel's quantitative and qualitative superiority over any Arab country or all the Arab countries combined.

Reserve Colonel Ze'ev Eytan, an expert in the military balance in the Middle East, said that this deal might end in "unsafe hands."

This deal will reveal the extent of the U.S. commitment to maintaining Israel's superiority in quantity and quality. This principle was established and continued throughout successive U.S. Administrations. It was underlined in the famous message that Ronald Reagan sent to former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on 20 February 1982 when he pledged to maintain this superiority. At that time, Israel was protesting the U.S. sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia and raising a great clamor. George Bush upheld this pledge to maintain Israel's advanced military technology. It appears that this commitment will be maintained under Bill Clinton's Administration, too, because the new president pledged in his famous speech of 5 September 1992, while still a candidate, to maintain Israel's qualitative and quantitative superiority. The statements used by Reagan in his 1982 speech were repeated in Bill Clinton's speech to the general assembly of B'nai B'rith, the most powerful Jewish-American society. The JERUSALEM POST published the complete text of Clinton's speech before his election on 3 November.

We must keep track of the UAE request because it is a test of Clinton's policy on a vital issue in the Middle East, namely the military balance. I don't believe that President Clinton will differ here from former Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan. We spoke a lot about the change, which is certain to come, and the differences between the new and the incumbent Presidents. But there are always constants and variables. Even if everything changes in the United States, there will still be one thing that will never change with the change of presidents: the principle of maintaining Israel's military superiority.

At any rate, the UAE request is a new test that will show what will change under the Democratic Party after 12 years of Republican rule. We must keep track of this news report, which has not appeared in the Arabic media but around which the Israeli press is raising a big clamor.

Terrorists To Be Referred to Military Courts

MCB1121155292 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Excerpt] All defendants from terrorist elements arrested in the last few days will be referred to military courts after it has been established whether they sought to undermine the national economy through their attacks on tourists, using terrorism as a method to implement hostile foreign schemes. The Supreme State Security Prosecution Office, under the supervision of First Public Attorney Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, yesterday began its investigations into the attack on the tourist bus in Qina. The file of the six terrorists involved in the case will be referred to the Military Prosecution immediately upon the completion of the investigation. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor Begins Questioning Extremists

NC0112144592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—The Supreme State Security prosecutor began today his interrogation of 13 extremists arrested yesterday by security forces. Two of the suspects are fugitives accused in the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat.

The suspects were moved to the Supreme State Security premises in Heliopolis amid strict security measures in view of the danger they pose to public security.

A responsible security source said that the arrest of these extremists comes within the framework of the intensive campaign launched by the security authorities to arrest extremists in all governorates following their recent terrorist operations, the latest of which was the attack on a police force sent to arrest them in Alexandria. Two police officers were gravely wounded in the incident.

Opposition Paper on NDP Handling of Terrorism

NC0212110292 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Nov 92 p 1

[Jamal Badawi article: "No Solution Other Than Purging the Regime of the 'Corrupt Clique' and Elements of Sycophancy and Misfortune"—punctuation as published]

[Text] I say it purely for the sake of God and the homeland. Egypt is facing a great danger known only to God and those well versed in the country's affairs. If matters continue in their present rhythm, the country will fall prey to terrorism and Egypt will turn into a searing hell. Wise people and public opinion leaders have not withheld their advice, preaching, and warnings but their sincere cries have been in vain and the state's reaction to their cries was one of rejection, ridicule, and doubts about intentions. The Egyptian masses are now watching the struggle between the state and the terrorist gangs as if they were watching a soccer match or a play that ends when the curtain drops while the spectators return home to continue with their normal life.

I will be more frank and say that despair has taken hold of people and the masses now do not care whether they are governed by terrorism or the National Democratic Party [NDP], which lacks legitimacy. Both are using weapons, violence, and thuggery and there is not a single ray of hope on the horizon that this deteriorating situation will change.

Today they are asking the people to help confront terrorism!!

Today they remember the people after having ignored and shelved them for years. They did not remember them when they falsified their will by 99 percent and robbed them of their natural right to choose representatives in the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, or the local councils. They deceived the people when they claimed that the NDP is the true representative of the Egyptian people. They used every available tool of pressure and terrorism to exclude any political force that might pull the rug from under the NDP's feet!! If it is true that this party represents the Egyptian people, then why does it not play its historic role of confronting terrorism? Why is it not shouldering the responsibility of confrontation in accordance with its so-called mandate from the people!! How can we believe that this party can confront terrorism when it is collaborating with terrorism in Upper Egypt and under its cloak the elements of terrorism are moving freely in the fields, caves, and dens under the care of the NDP leaders there!! How can the people be convinced that the confrontation with terrorism is serious when they see terrorists enjoy the immunity of the ruling party's leaders in the cities of Upper Egypt!?

In his speech at the opening of the parliamentary session, the president warned the opposition parties against remaining silent on terrorism. He said that democracy will cease to exist if terrorism triumphs...These are nice words...but...we have the right to ask: Do the parties have a presence under the existing political monopoly? Do the parties have anything to shed tears over if, God forbid, terrorism triumphs? Why do we ask the political parties to make sacrifices, to be generous, and to rise above partisan squabbles while we do not ask for the same sacrifices from the ruling party that is unjustly monopolizing the mastery of the country's fate!!

The president's call to the parties is worthy of attention but it has commitments, conditions, and duties so that it can bear fruit. The first of these commitments is to dismantle the political structure based on fraud and falsehood, to go back to the people to decide their own fate, and to launch the battle of existence seriously, boldly, and positively. The people must be free to choose whomever they want and delegate whomever they wish without interference, rigging, or fraud. Then the people will reveal their true mettle, awareness, and support for democracy against bigotry and extremism.

They say that free elections would duplicate Algeria's experiment and would enable a certain trend to impose its hegemony on political life. This is an erroneous comparison because comparisons require equality between two sides. Everyone should know that Egypt and Algeria are unalike in terms of history and experience.

The constitutional struggle in Egypt has deep roots and Egypt's parliamentary experience is 100 years ahead of Algeria. The Egyptian voter knows how to cast his vote when there is real democracy and when elections are held in an atmosphere of freedom and integrity. The Egyptian voter does not relinquish his vote and knows how to cast it if he finds that the state is adopting an impartial position toward all parties and that the presidency is above all party competition and not confined to a certain party.

If this happens, the miracle will happen and Egypt will be spared the threat of terrorism. Terrorism will not exist under the canopy of real democracy as opposed to a fake democracy made by governors, mayors, and district officers.

This is the way to salvation. Other ways would lead us to destruction and disintegration. The security organs have so far failed to confront terrorism, not out of negligence, but due to a shortage of resources. The emergency law is much weaker than anticipated and the detention camps have become factories for hatching terrorism and turning untutored young men into professional terrorists.

The judicial procedures are more tedious than we imagine. The case of al-Mahjub's assassination is still with the judiciary, although it happened 25 months ago. Verdicts do not usually have the deterrent force to prevent events from recurring. Ideological debates have failed to uproot the ideas planted in youths' minds. The ideas are mixed with their blood and it is difficult to separate them.

The only solution lies in democracy, freedom, and the reconstruction of the state on clean and strong bases. The people must take part in establishing these bases with their hands, efforts, minds, and conscience. The only solution is to get rid of the corrupt clique rallying around the presidential office like hungry hawks. The regime should be cleansed of hypocrites and corrupt elements so the people can feel that the state is serious in bringing the hypocrites and the corrupt to account and punishing them and also so the people can feel the state is honest in carrying out reforms.

No doubt it is a difficult task. But confidence in the people is enough to overcome the obstacles, eliminate the hurdles, and save the country from danger.

NDP Leaders Handling of Terrorism Questioned

NC0112141892 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 23 Nov 92 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Jamal Badawi: "Terrorism Under Protection of National Democratic Party"]

[Text] It seems the Ministry of Agriculture believes reports that those who committed acts of terrorism in upper Egypt are hiding in sugar cane fields. The ministry is thinking of replacing sugar cane with beet, which is a shorter plant. Claims that the terrorists are hiding in fields, mountains, or caves are exaggerated and must be viewed with caution, because reports circulating affirm that these boys are living among their own folk and relations, sleeping in their homes, watching television, and making fun of the threats and statements about the searches and chase operations. The issue worsens knowing that these boys are enjoying the protection of the National Democratic Party [NDP] officials in upper Egyptian cities and that handing over any of them to security leaders and leading NDP figures.

There is nothing new in this. A few months ago the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF revealed collusion between NDP leaders and leaders of extremist groups, proving that current events in upper Egypt are not far from the NDP's hands. The aim is to settle old accounts with the security apparatus and to kindle the fire of sedition between governorate departments and the security apparatus, even if this spells security disturbances, chaos, and attacks against Copts and tourists and turns upper Egyptian villages into "cantons" or settlements ruled by a law other than that applied in Egypt!

If the NDP leaders in upper Egypt are not guilty of the charge of collusion and covering up for terrorism, the logical question is: What have these leaders done to extinguish the flames of sedition, contain the criminal acts, strike at the hands of the reckless people, and hand them over to the hands of justice? The leaders of the ruling party, according to what the government says, are supposed to have overwhelming popularity, broad influence, and great power, as shown by their monopoly on the seats of the People's Assembly, the Consultative Council, and the local councils! If so, what efforts did these leaders exert to confront, contain, and narrow the scope of terrorism?

The answer is already known and leads us to a frightening conclusion—that the boys who are tampering with security in upper Egypt would not have dared carry out their crimes in broad daylight had they felt that the doors of people higher up were shut in their faces, had leading ruling party figures rejected their criminal behavior, or had they failed to find someone to protect them, shelter them, cover up for them, and keep them safe from the hands of justice!

If confronting terrorism is a national, popular, and partisan duty—as the president says—the NDP leaders in upper Egypt should be the first to assume this duty, not just out of loyalty to the party that opened the doors of power, wealth, immunity, and influence for them, but out of loyalty to Egypt, which is living on the edge to give them welfare and pleasure. But Egypt's reward was ingratitude and plotting against its security, reputation, economy, and national unity.

Sidqi on Economic Liberalization, Subsidies

NC0312091592 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 27 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the government plans to abolish subsidies gradually, except for the subsidy on basic commodities. He said citizens will be compensated for this by other measures, such as increasing their income and salaries. He pointed out that the state had been subsidizing more than 150 commodities, but subsidies have become unfeasible under the economic liberalization policy.

The prime minister said that the salaries of state employees and civil servants will increase by up to 100 percent to face the increase in prices. As for landlords,

the law governing the relation between landlords and tenants will be reconsidered to lay down the necessary guarantees to increase revenues from property. As for farmers, the price of a great number of crops has been left to the market to decide, except for cotton, which will be liberalized next year. Dr. Sidqi said that these measures seek to protect low-income people, stressing that the government's economic reform program takes into account social, political, and economic considerations.

Dr. Sidqi said that the public business sector companies will be reorganized to achieve economic integration among them and break the monopoly on the various commodities and products. All companies working in foreign trade will be merged into one company and all knitting and weaving companies will be merged under one holding company. Dr. Sidqi said that restrictions on imports will be lifted in full in one or two years at most to give our local industry every opportunity to upgrade its quality so that it will not be harmed by imports and will be able to compete freely with other products. He stressed that the government intends to let market laws govern all economic activities by removing all restrictions imposed on them. He said that the government policy of selling public business sector companies governed by Law 203 seeks to increase their capital and pump new funds into them to streamline their finance structures. Thus, he added, only 10 to 15 percent of the shares of these companies will be sold. He said that this procedure seeks to expand the activity of the companies to accommodate the excess in employees and avoid layoffs.

UAE's Hamdan Optimistic Qatar Will Attend GCC

FBIS1212220992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[George Sam'an report: "Hamdan Bin-Zayid Tells AL-HAYAH: We Want Qatar To Attend]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that Abu Dhabi "very much wants" Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani to attend the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit to be held in the UAE capital on 22 December.

He expressed his optimism about the possibility of Doha's resuming participation in the GCC meetings, ruling out its absence from the upcoming summit. He pointed out that the government of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan "will spare no efforts to settle the transient border dispute between the two sisters: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar."

He said that the GCC was born in Abu Dhabi in 1981, and that the UAE hopes that "it will remain the place in which disputes are resolved for the sake of further cooperation among the GCC states and all the Arab states." He emphasized that "this has always been the wise and rational policy" of the country's president, Shaykh Zayid.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Shaykh Hamdan said that Qatar's participation in the next summit "would be firm evidence and proof of the GCC states' coherence and unity." The council, he said, is the right and ideal place for discussing the dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar "in an atmosphere of brotherly dialogue and understanding in order to secure a settlement acceptable to both sides."

He expressed his doubts that Qatar would contemplate suspending its membership of the GCC or pulling out. He ruled that out completely, emphasizing that what binds the GCC states cannot be shaken by any dispute. Nor can any quarter "interfere between the brothers to divide them." He recalled that all border questions in the Arabian Peninsula have been and are being resolved "within the framework of friendly relations and common interests," and none of them has reached a crisis point. In this connection he cited the settlement of the border questions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, and Muscat and Riyadh.

Shaykh Hamdan broached the issue of the three Iranian-occupied UAE islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa. He pointed out that UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali through UAE Ambassador in Washington [title as published] Muhammad Humaya al-Shu'ali. He added that following that, Ghali received Iran's representative to the international organization and is expected to send an envoy to the region. Shaykh Hamdan reemphasized that the UAE has all the documents proving its ownership of the three islands.

The UAE minister of state for foreign affairs stressed that his country's government cannot neglect or concede any of its people's rights. However, it would accept any verdict on the islands issue from the International Court of Justice or the Security Council in accordance with international laws and conventions.

Commenting on the U.S. decision to send forces to Somalia to help end the crisis in that country, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid praised this step but regretted the absence of general Arab moves "to rescue that fraternal country, end its destructive tragedy, and ward off the specter of war and starvation from its people."

He recalled that the UAE was the first Arab state to raise the Somali issue, pointing out that he personally informed the Arab League council convened in Cairo some months ago of the willingness of his country's government to participate in any joint political, military, financial, or relief moves to bring an end to Somalia's tragedy. "But collective moves have not taken place." He added: "It would have been more beneficial and proper if the Arabs had made a move from the outset to rescue a fraternal country, rather than leaving the United States and the West to make the moves while we continue to look on." He pointed out that the UAE has provided all the aid and relief supplies it could to rescue the Somalis.

Kuwait

'Large Quantity' of Arms, Ammunition Seized

LD0112221992 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated that as a result of an intensive investigation carried out by the security services, security officers were able yesterday morning to seize a large quantity of arms and ammunition which were hidden at [word indistinct] in the Silaybiyah area and arrest two of the accused [as heard].

The source added that the two accused led the officers of the weapons collection force to a large quantity of arms and ammunition hidden in two houses in the al-Andalus and Silaybiyah areas. At the end of his statement, the source stressed the importance of citizens' cooperation with the security services by responding to the repeated calls to handing over the weapons in their possession in order to end that phenomenon and safeguard the country's security and safety.

10 Iraqi Women Detained After Crossing Border

NC2911101792 Paris AFP in English 0912 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait City, Nov 29 (AFP)—Kuwaiti authorities have detained 10 Iraqi women who infiltrated the northern border region of al-Salaybiyah on foot, AL-'ANBA newspaper reported Sunday.

The Interior Ministry is investigating the circumstances of their crossing from the al-Shuwayyib region of southern Iraq. The paper did not specify when the women were detained.

Since the Gulf war which expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991, the emirate has reported several infiltration bids from Iraq.

The Kuwaiti authorities had plans to establish a "defence line" along the border. Work to set up markers along the border has been recently completed under United Nations supervision.

Yemen

Paratroop Brigade Mutinies Over Lack of Pay

PM0212110692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Lutfi Shamsah report: "Yemeni Paratroop Brigade in Ma'rib Mutinies; Military Units Without Salaries"]

[Text] Aden—Yemeni military sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the personnel of several military units have not received their salaries for two months, and that only some individuals have received their salaries. As for the the others, they can be seen crowding in front of the Central Bank in Aden to receive their allowances and inquire about their salaries for the past two months.

The sources' statement came in the wake of reports of a military mutiny by the soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the paratroop brigade in Ma'rib Governorate—the mutiny which started following an argument between them and Colonel Ahmed Salih Shamlan, the brigade's commander, as a result of the delay in paying the soldiers their salaries and dues.

The AL-BUSTAQBAL newspaper, the Yemeni Socialist Party's mouthpiece, said yesterday that the mutiny began last Wednesday after the soldiers formed a collective 24-member leadership to pursue their case. As a result, the brigade commander was forced to flee the camp and seek refuge in the central command. The newspaper added that Deputy Chief of Staff Col. 'Ali Muhammad Salah tried to negotiate with the soldiers but they prevented his helicopter from landing in the camp.

According to Yemeni sources, the paratroopers who declared the disobedience set up a radio station in the camp through which they announced their slogans and demands. They tried to assassinate Col. Shamlan while on his way into the camp on Thursday morning. As a result, three of his escorts were wounded, one seriously.

Soldiers in the camp demanded that Defense Minister Staff Brigadier Haytham Qasim Tahir or the supreme commander of the Armed Forces (Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih) go to the camp to discuss their case and resolve it immediately. And in fact the defense minister arrived at midday on the same day and met with the soldiers and officers in the camp, where he discussed their cases. Then he began to work to resolve them, appointing a new commander for the brigade in succession of Col. Shamlan.

Col. Muhammad Sa'id, head of the finance department at the defense ministry, confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the reports published by some newspapers about the military disobedience which occurred inside the paratroop brigade's camp in Ma'rib last Wednesday.

The finance department head pointed out that the soldiers revolted against the camp's commander because of deteriorating living conditions inside the camp. But he ruled out that this military disobedience had any political aims, emphasizing that the reasons for the delay in paying the salaries of military personnel is the centralism governing the budgets and the delay in paying some funds by the finance ministry.

Well-informed party circles emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the military disobedience was attributable to the irresponsible practices of the camp's commander, who persisted in appropriating the soldiers' daily allowances, including food. And that the commander's corruption and his mistreatment of the soldiers sparked off anger inside the brigade and forced the soldiers to pursue the commander, who fled after sensing the danger, and it is all because of his bad treatment of them.

Military sources said that the matter was settled inside the camp by appointing another commander. But the disobedience had its justifications which prompted the defense ministry to take a swift measure to extinguish it quickly.

The personnel of the 1st infantry brigade carried out a similar mutiny last May for the same reasons.

Other information says that the reason for the delay in paying the Armed Forces' salaries is the consumption of their 1992 budget. The deficit in the salaries item totals 25 percent of the budget, that is, three months' salary.

The delay in paying the salaries is still the biggest problem from which the Yemeni Armed Forces' personnel are suffering because of the number of procedures resulting from the two armies' merger and the imbalance to which the defense ministry's budget was exposed after union. This is in addition to the fact that those who were demobilized from the southern army have returned to

the Armed Forces with higher ranks, and also the standardization of the salaries of the southern army and the northern army.

Salih Interviewed on Armed Forces Merging

JN0112191792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has affirmed that the process of merging, building, and modernizing the Armed and Security Forces [of formerly North and South Yemen] is proceeding at full swing and in accordance with rational and practical bases that will ensure the enhancement of the capability of the Armed Forces and guarantee their shouldering of their national tasks and duties with high efficiency. He explained that the Armed and Security Forces are the protectors of constitutional legitimacy and all national parties and forces, and that they are aloof from narrow loyalties and affiliations. This is because they are the possession of the entire people and constitute Yemen's major party.

These remarks were made in the course of an interview with the chairman of the Presidential Council by the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, which is published in the city of Ta'izz. The brother chairman explained that explanations have been made in this regard through several political statements by the Presidential Council and the government. This is in addition to statements issued by the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress and the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. He said the brother prime minister and specialists at the Defense and Interior Ministries are considering subsequent steps to complete this process.

Responding to a question by AL-JUMHURIYAH on whether there is a timetable setting a date for completing this process, the brother chairman said that this depends on the results of the work of the two groups and specialists at the Defense and Interior Ministries, who will submit an integrated plan in this regard to the Presidential Council, which will discuss it and make a decision in its regard.

On the role of the media in reflecting the ideal picture of the exercise of democracy and protecting this accomplishment, the brother chairman affirmed that democracy will remain our people's sole option to build the aspired-for Yemeni cultural edifice. He said there is no alternative to democracy, nor will it be deviated from.

The chairman of the Presidential Council urged the various mass media organizations to assume their national responsibility by effectively contributing to enhancing national unity and the sound exercise of democracy in a manner that serves national issues. He pointed out the responsibility of the media in exercising constructive and positive criticism which enhances the march of construction and correcting mistakes wherever they are located, in a manner free from slander and abuses which create doubts and skepticism and sow differences which benefit no one but the enemies of the homeland. He affirmed that democracy is the best method to build Yemen and to bolster its prestige and capability on all levels.

'Aziz Statements to ABC on Blockade Reported

JN2811133792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] New York, 28 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said Iraq hopes that any U.S. Administration would deal objectively with it.

In an interview with Good Morning America aired yesterday by the U.S. television network ABC, 'Aziz said Iraq also hopes that the U.S. public would get a chance to know Iraq as a normal country and not as it has been projected, as an enemy of the United States. He stressed that Iraq has not harmed any American citizen or U.S. interests.

An INA correspondent in New York reports that in the interview, the deputy prime minister criticized the conduct of the UN inspection missions and the mistakes they have made while working in Iraq. He said: There are two kinds of inspection teams; ones that act in a professional manner and others which deliberately create problems, make provocations, and act to harm the sovereignty of Iraq. The deputy prime minister emphasized the need for the inspection teams to act professionally and not try to infringe on Iraq's sovereignty so that they can fulfill their tasks quickly.

Regarding the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, the deputy prime minister stressed that Iraq did not expect the UN Security Council to lift the blockade. He said the reason is obvious. The governments of the United States, Britain, and France have not decided to do so because of known political goals. He pointed out that when these Western powers decide to maintain or lift the blockade, others in the Security Council will follow suit.

During the interview, Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the continuation of the unjust blockade. In this regard, he noted the statement made by UNICEF Director James Grant, who said that children are dying because of the shortage of medicine and food.

'Aziz Returns After Addressing Security Council

JN0112203092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his delegation returned from New York today after delivering a speech at the UN Security Council's meetings. In his speech, he dealt with the unjust position that the Security Council has taken against Iraq under the pressure of the Bush administration. He explained Iraq's position toward measures imposed on Iraq in accordance with Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 687. He also tackled the Iraqi people's suffering from the continuation of the unjust blockade, imposed on them as a result of the Bush administration's malicious policy and the participation of other Western governments to carry out their colonialist plans and goals targeting Iraq and the Arab nation.

He stressed the need for the Security Council to show goodwill toward Iraq's people and to work in accordance with the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and the rules of ethics in order to lift the blockade on Iraq.

On his way back, the deputy prime minister met in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and reviewed with him bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. Tariq 'Aziz' delegation included Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Blaze on Explosion of Aid Trucks for Kurds

NC0112160092 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Nicosia, Dec 1 (AFP)—An Iraqi opposition group on Tuesday accused Baghdad of blowing up several trucks loaded with UN food supplies for Iraqi Kurds after their drivers were interrogated at an Iraqi checkpoint. The Iraqi National Congress (INC), in a statement from London received here, said Iraq bombs-trapped the Turkish trucks with magnetic explosive devices.

On Sunday, two trucks were completely destroyed and another four damaged. Two others were unscathed but a bomb with a delay mechanism that failed to go off was found under one of the vehicles. UN sources in Geneva said there were no casualties in the attack.

The bombs exploded under the trucks shortly after they arrived in the city of Irbil, in the Kurdish-controlled north. The INC said they had earlier passed an Iraqi checkpoint at Fayda, where the drivers were questioned.

"These acts of sabotage are believed to be part of an Iraqi attempt to terrorize Turkish truck drivers in order to disrupt the humanitarian relief operation for Iraqi Kurdistan," said the INC. The operation has fallen "drastically behind schedule." It said snow would now hamper truck traffic, resulting in a drop in supplies reaching the region. "This potentially catastrophic situation is primarily due to the refusal of the Iraqi authorities to cooperate with the UN and the coalition on the issue of humanitarian relief operation in Iraqi Kurdistan," the group charged.

The trucks had just brought supplies from Turkey as part of the United Nations program to help northern Iraq's Kurds who are cut off from the rest of the country. Local authorities have opened an investigation into the attack which no group claimed.

Kurdistan Council Sets up Court of Appeals

NC2711193492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Kurdistan Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1000 yesterday and discussed ways of implementing the decisions adopted by the Kurdistan parliament, particularly setting up Kurdistan's budget for 1993.

The Council of Ministers decided to establish a court of appeals in Kurdistan and to appoint Rashid 'Abd-al-Qadir as court president.

The council also discussed ways to distribute relief items, fuel and food, among citizens in Kurdistan.

Rebel Radio Reports Antigovernment Operations

NC3011150492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Several days ago, one of our victorious jihad groups laid a successful ambush for a command (Wah) vehicle carrying the criminal Muhammad Hasan 'Alyawi, who worked as a mercenary in Saddam's Army 10th Division's intelligence arm. He and another criminal were killed and a third was wounded. The dead criminal had extensive links with the unjust intelligence agencies in various camps in that area [just further identified]. The heroic group returned safely to base, thank God.

According to our military sources, last week the Islamic revolution's mujahidin set up a checkpoint near al-Nasiriyah and searched passing vehicles for criminal 'Alluqiyin. They did this without offending the passengers' dignity.

Another jihad group set up a checkpoint on the road near Karmat Bani Sa'id near al-Nasiriyah and searched for Saddam's mercenaries to take revenge on them and inflict God's just judgement. [passage indistinct]

Baghdad's Reaction to UN Sanctions Renewal Blasted

NC2711102792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Commentary by the station's political editor]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH called on citizens in our plagued Iraq to rely on God and demonstrate patience. The Voice of the Iraqi People borrows the paper's call, which is a word of truth meant to serve evil purposes. The radio calls on our kinsfolk in our wounded Iraq to show patience, rely on God, and wait for the victory which God has promised his good men.

One day after the UN sanctions were renewed, AL-JUMHURIYAH, mouthpiece of the outcast regime, said that if God wanted to test the patience of the Iraqis for one, two, three, or four years, then they must be thankful for Him. It appears from this that the regime is dreaming of staying in power for one, two, three, or four years under the economic blockade through which the United Nations is starving our people, and under the terrorist blockade through which the tyrant's gang is terrifying our kinsfolk in our beloved Iraq.

In an urgent dispatch from Baghdad, REUTER says that a feeling of frustration, sadness, and anger overwhelmed the people of Iraq after hearing that the Security Council had decided to maintain the economic sanctions against Iraq. Our people continue to pay the price of the tyrant's crimes with the blood of their sons, the misery of their women, and the hunger of their children.

What is happening in Iraq? Where are the sincere people of noble Iraq? How long will our kinsfolk remain trapped between the hammer of the United Nations and the anvil of the crazy tyrant, who seeks to remain in power even if this means the starvation or death of all the Iraqis? May God help our kinsfolk in our wounded Iraq. Victory is imminent, God willing.

Jordanian King's 'Firm Support' Reported

JN0212103592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has affirmed Jordan's strong and firm support for Iraq's territorial integrity and its rejection of attempts to partition Iraq or infringe on its sovereignty and independence.

Delivering a speech from the throne today at the inauguration of the fourth session of the Jordanian parliament, King Husayn said that Jordan's Arab-Islamic affiliation has always prompted it to support the nation's causes everywhere. He also stressed Jordan's concern to regain the land and national rights, foremost among which is the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem and achieving a just and honorable peace based on right, not on might and the imbalance of power.

The Jordanian monarch asserted that Jordan is on the road to bolstering a democratic approach, establishing its various institutions, and building a law-abiding state which enjoys freedom, equality, justice, and security.

The Jordanian monarch also reviewed the economy of his country, saying that an objective evaluation of this economy shows that it has achieved positive growth and comprehensive development this year. He explained that, by the end of this year, the gross national product will have increased by almost 11 percent due to increased activity in construction, agriculture, and industry.

He also stressed that importance of bypassing the current Arab situation and working to revive Arab solidarity, as well as activating the role of the Arab League. He added that Jordan will reciprocate a good step to this effect from a brother with a bigger step to ensure that our nation will remain within the circle of action and life.

Saddam Visits Market Named After Him

JN2911163492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, today made an inspection visit to the Suq Hamadah development site, named Saddamiyat al-Karkh by the local population. His excellency the leader president, may God protect him, was acquainted

by the site engineer with the progress of work at the project, which the construction establishments are about to complete. Workers and citizens from the area around the project cheered his excellency and voiced their determination to pursue construction for the well-being and prosperity of the people.

No POW's Released by Iran 'Since Last May'

JN2911145692 Baghdad INA in English 1433 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 29, INA—Mr. Alan Schlenum [name as received], head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Iraq said Iran did not release any Iraqi prisoners of war since last May.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH daily of Iraq, Mr. Schlenum confirmed that Iraqis recently released by Iran were not POW's of the Iraq-Iran war but, rather Iraqi military men detained during the acts of sabotage and vandalism which followed the Gulf war.

The Red Cross official explained that the committee has a list of twenty thousand names of Iraqi POW's and was negotiating with the Iranian Government on releasing them.

Mr. Schlenum stressed that the ICRC had no representation in Iran at present following Iranian Government's expulsion of its members.

The Red Cross official referred to Iraq's cooperation with the committee stressing that Iraq has facilitated all Red Cross operations and humanitarian missions in the country in addition to returning all the Iranian POW's to their country.

5 Cluster Bombs Defused in Dhi Qar Governorate

JN2911173992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1512 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Civil Defense teams defused five cluster bombs today in the Al-Abyad area of al-Islah subdistrict in Dhi Qar Governorate. The bombs were dropped by the planes of the 30-state aggression.

The Civil Defense director in the governorate told INA that 120 various bombs have been defused this month.

Medicine Received From U.S.-Based Mercy Society

JN2911143792 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 29, INA—Saddam Medical Department has recently received a shipment of medicines that have been donated by the U.S.-based Mercy Society which is set up by Iraqi expatriates to help alleviate sufferings of the Iraqi children because of the ongoing unjust economic embargo, said Chairman of the Society Mr. Wasim Khalid.

Mr. Khalid said that Iraqi, Arab and Western people are being misled by the smear disinformation campaign launched by Western media to falsify facts about Iraq.

Member of the society Mr. Wa'ad Kamil said that such anti-Iraq political and media campaign was being directed by Western circles hostile to Iraq and paid for by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers.

To counter this smear campaign against the country, Iraqi expatriates decided, following their recent conference in Baghdad, to form an information society consisting of 1[illegible] members whose work is to inform the Western public opinion of the real hardships faced by Iraqis due to the unjust economic sanctions on Iraq.

Concerning the future activities of the society, Mr. Khalid said that it would organize a big reception party in Los Angeles on the New Year to raise donations from Iraqi and Arab communities as well as from sympathizing Americans to buy another shipment of medicines.

Belgium Refuses To Grant Entry Visa to Delegation

JN2611181492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—The Belgian authorities have refused to grant an entry visa to a National Assembly delegation that was due to participate in the Arab-European parliamentary seminar that began in Brussels last Tuesday.

Upon returning to Baghdad from Amman today, Dr. Safa' Sahib al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly and head of the Iraqi delegation, told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the Belgian Embassy in Amman had informed him of the Belgian authorities' refusal to grant him an entry visa for what they called procedural reasons, while such procedures were not applied to other delegations participating in the seminar.

He explained that the National Assembly's decision to take part in this seminar came at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union General Secretariat, which maintains its headquarters in the French city of Strasbourg.

Concluding his statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly, asserted that the Belgian authorities' decision has deprived Iraq of presenting its views to the parliamentary seminar on the continuation of the blockade imposed by America and its allies against Iraq and its peaceful people; on those states' interference in our homeland's domestic affairs; and on the negative impact of the blockade on security and stability in the region.

France's Mitterrand on PLO Role in Peace

FMB112153092 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Nov 92 p 3

[Jean-Pierre Langellier report: "Mr. Mitterrand Asks Israelis To Have Discussions With PLO"]

[Text] Jerusalem—"It is not a question of choosing an interlocutor. The interlocutor is there. I have not yet seen any force other than the PLO which can speak for the Palestinians." Just as Francois Mitterrand had opened his Israeli hosts the previous day by saying nothing about the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat in his official speech, so he spoke bluntly in his press conference on Thursday 26 November, reaffirming the main principles of his Near East policy. For Mr. Mitterrand, the PLO is "the only possible interlocutor" on the Palestinian side. He reminded his interlocutors of what strikes him "as obvious." "It is not I who am choosing," he remarked. "I try to look objectively at the situation which I have often observed. The future will show where the truth lies." He referred to the initiative for which he was most strongly criticized here: his meeting with Mr. 'Arafat on 2 May 1989. And he justified himself: "I was lagging behind.... Mr. 'Arafat had already dined with the King of Spain, for instance, well before he came to France. You see that Israel feels no bitterness toward Spain...."

"From the few contacts I have had with other Palestinians," he added, "I have concluded that, until there is evidence to the contrary, there is no other real force than the PLO which is emerging. If there are others, they will be assessed." This does not prevent Mr. Mitterrand from "understanding that other countries, like Israel, which are at war and have suffered intolerable, unacceptable terrorism, should have different reactions."

During the working luncheon he had a few hours earlier with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the head of state said he was aware that "'Arafat is not acceptable in Israel and that merely saying his name makes many Israelis shudder." But he immediately added: "While Israel ignores the PLO, there cannot be any fruitful negotiations with the Palestinians."

Mr. Mitterrand reaffirmed, forcefully and with some irony, the Palestinians' right to have a state. "It seems to me," he reaffirmed, "that a Palestinian state was recognized by the United Nations when the Israeli state was created (in 1947—LE MONDE editor's note). One of these states was formed, vigorously and courageously, and that is all to the good.... The other state was forgotten. It seems to me that it is very difficult for a people to live without a homeland" and "for a people living in its homeland to live without its own structures which naturally lead to the formation of a state." This is an argument intended to be unanswerable: no people without a homeland, no homeland without a state.

However, Mr. Mitterrand knows very well that Israel will not change its mind on this point overnight. "I do not want to give myself to trying to win over a government on a subject on which little progress has been made." More generally, the president "simply hopes that enough will remain from these conversations to allow the peace negotiations to progress," and he said he is "not devastated by the desire to become involved in negotiations, especially when they do not succeed."

Pending a possible conclusion, Mr. Mitterrand is adopting what was the "policy of small steps" advocated by Henry Kissinger. "It would be wise to advance by small steps rather than to choose the policy of all or nothing which has produced nothing so far." This conviction to realism was clearly addressed as much to the Palestinians as to the Israelis.

The Path of Elections

For Mr. Mitterrand, the Israeli offer to rapidly hold elections in the occupied territories must be accepted. "I do not see a better method. It is the path of peace, if these elections are fair—and I have no reason to think that with a government like this they would not be.... That is my answer in principle. In practice, you know very well that the Palestinian leaders in the region have relations with the PLO in Tunis. If some of these leaders decide to go ahead with elections, I presume they will have done so in agreement with their fellow citizens in Tunis." In other words, the leaders of the interior appointed through the ballot box will legitimately be able to claim to represent the Palestinian population.

With regard to bilateral relations, Mr. Mitterrand hinted at a gesture which would affect many Israelis: the abolition—at an unspecified date—of the visa requirement which was imposed on them in 1986. "The visa requirement," he explained, "is not discrimination. It is a precaution which was taken, perhaps in a way which may now seem too broad, at a time when there were waves of terrorism. We are well aware that the terrorism does not come from Israel. But it was difficult to make exceptions without prompting protests. I think that this requirement should be eased." Each year, 12,000 Israelis are obliged to apply for French visas for which they pay a sum of money which varies according to the duration of their visit.

The decision to create a scientific and industrial cooperation fund worth 100 million francs, funded equally by France and Israel, was also announced. This applied research structure, contrary to the Israelis' wishes, should lead rapidly to practical industrial projects. On the other hand, no significant progress seems to have been made on contracts of interest to French enterprises in the sphere of railroad transportation and the provision of computers for schools.

Mr. Mitterrand devoted Thursday morning to paying his respects at Yad-Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust. He laid a wreath in the sanctuary of remembrance. One meeting was crossed off his agenda at the last minute—the one he had arranged with Yitzhaq Shamir, former prime minister and Likud leader. The latter canceled the meeting "for health reasons." Mr. Mitterrand handled

this incident in a joking manner. "Yesterday evening," he remarked, "Mr. Shamir seemed to be well. But you know, at our age! Israeli politics is very tiring." A few hours earlier, Mr. Shamir had described Mr. Mitterrand's love for Israel as "platonic." "This love," he added, "can only slightly sweeten the pills which French policy wants us to swallow." The cancellation of this visit clearly pained nobody...."

Mitterrand, Dumas Meet with Palestinians

PM0112155692 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Nov 92 p 3

[Patrice Claude report: "France Grants Aid for Industrialization of Occupied Territories"]

[Text] Jerusalem—The Palestinians, who expected "nothing special" from their meeting with the French head of state on the evening of Thursday 26 November other than the public reaffirmation of their "right to a homeland"—which was given—obtained aid of 20 million francs intended to support their industrialization effort. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Israeli-Arab negotiations, welcomed this donation which, according to her, is a "good start." She also said that France had pledged to offer around 100 study grants to her compatriots, some being reserved for the training of administrative cadres who would be called upon to administer the transitional autonomy of the occupied territories if negotiations with the Israeli state succeeded.

It was on foot, in the damp cold of a winter evening, that Mr. Mitterrand, under the gaze of a few passersby, covered the few hundred meters which separate the King David Hotel, where he was staying, from the French consulate general. Accompanied by around 100 people—aides, journalists, and bodyguards—the head of state, wearing a black hat and a long overcoat, was welcome outside the consulate gates by a handful of Jewish demonstrators, members of the Kakh racist movement who were waving flags with hostile slogans and shouting: "PLO sponsor! Mitterrand go home!"

Another Meeting with Mr. 'Arafat

The president deliberately ignored them and went to the second floor of the consulate where he was awaited by Mrs. Ashrawi, and also by Faysal al-Husayni, the leader of the "moderates" of the "interior," accompanied by Ziyad Abu-Ziyad and Sa'ib 'Uraygat. The latter, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington negotiations, said after the meeting more than one hour later that he had suggested convening the Madrid conference again so that the Europeans, and especially France, can be involved more closely in the peace process which was started a year ago in the Spanish capital under the auspices of the United States and the USSR, which was then on the decline.

Without going any further, Mr. al-Husayni explained that he had asked "the head of state for France, which understands and supports the Palestinians' interests, to play a more important role in the negotiation process." Mr. 'Uraygat's suggestion has little chance of being accepted by Paris because when speaking to his Israeli hosts the previous evening Mr. Mitterrand had stated that, in the absence of anything better, he had resigned himself to the framework of the current discussions.

The Palestinian negotiators who have long since stopped concealing their membership of the PLO and some of whom went specially to the Tunis headquarters to meet with Mr. Mitterrand handed him a message from Mr. 'Arafat detailing his organization's position on the peace process and expressing his strong reservations about the elections in which the 2 million Arab inhabitants of the territories have been invited to participate by Israel. "The French head of state," Mrs. Ashrawi added, "has not ruled out the idea of another meeting with President 'Arafat if that proved necessary." Delegated by Mr. Mitterrand to visit East Jerusalem which he has visited before "several times" but which he did not want to visit as head of state "to respect diplomatic usage," [French Foreign Minister] Roland Dumas was received a little later with very great ceremony by an expanded Palestinian delegation at the "House of the Orient." Built at the end of last century, this building has been occupied for several months by Mr. al-Husayni's department and by some of the prominent figures who have become the Palestinian negotiators. The latter earnestly wanted a kind of symbolic recognition of this place which public rumor has christened, rather ironically, as "the seat of Palestine's shadow government."

In the wake of the Portuguese government chief who was the first important foreign visitor to "honor" the House of the Orient "with his presence" last August, the French foreign minister went there in his official limousine with its tricolor flag. His hosts had planned a short press conference with Mr. al-Husayni but Mr. Dumas merely told a few journalists that he had listened to his Palestinian interlocutors' viewpoints.

KGB Officers Reportedly Train Hizbullah Fighters

TA0212104992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Dec 92 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Israeli security sources have confirmed that KGB officers had indeed trained Hizbullah terrorists in Lebanon in guerrilla warfare, as reported by the Paris-based weekly AL- MUHARRIR. According to the report, Iran financed the trainings, held at Hizbullah bases in Lebanon.

According to the Israeli sources, the training was not only given by KGB officers. Former East German officers also took part in the training. The terrorists were trained in warfare methods, and the use of arms and roadside bombs. The sources confirmed that Iran has been financing the training and that it even funds

Hizballah to encourage the organization to continue terror activity against Israel. [passage omitted]

Rabin Urges Palestinians To Manage Own Lives

TA0112161892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today called on the residents of the territories to take the management of their lives into their own hands during the period of the interim arrangement. Rabin stressed that the permanent arrangement will be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The prime minister addressed hundreds of notables from the territories in the inauguration ceremony of a new border terminal at the Allenby Bridge. Correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The Palestinian delegation does not have to accept everything we are offering, but the framework of the negotiations must be observed, the transitional arrangement first and then the permanent arrangement. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made the remarks today at a ceremony inaugurating the new Allenby Bridge terminal, addressing some 400 notables from the territories who were invited.

Rabin urged the Palestinian notables to accept the Israeli offer to assume the management of their lives in the territories in the framework of the transitional arrangement:

[Rabin] Let us begin—as a transitional arrangement, not a permanent solution—by your assuming all the authorities of the civil administration.

[Segal] Rabin said that the government will discuss the permanent arrangement, based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, three years after the self-government has been established.

Khalil Shwani, president of an appeals court in the territories, also addressed the ceremony, saying that the Palestinians view the reconstruction of the bridge positively, just as they view all the other government gestures, but he demanded that additional gestures be made, such as releasing detainees and accelerating the peace process.

Rabin said that today, particularly when the talks are being held, Israel has an interest in improving the living conditions of the residents of the territories. Expanding the Allenby Bridge terminal was designed to create a better atmosphere of an almost- free passage to Jordan, which is one of the components of peace, Rabin said.

Standing on the bridge over the Jordan River, Rabin sent a message to King Hussayn:

[Rabin] It is not worth it for both parties to miss the opportunity.

[Segal] Mr. Rabin, you made it halfway across the bridge. When do you believe will you get all the way to the other side?

[Rabin] I hope it will not be long before I am able to do that as well.

[Segal] After the ceremony, Rabin met Bethlehem Mayor Elyas Freyj and hugged him warmly. Freyj said that Rabin clarified several important points which could help moving the negotiations.

Rabin was accompanied by Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command; Brigadier General Gadi Zohar, head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration; and Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, who will be returning to Washington next week for the negotiations to see whether Rabin's message has indeed helped make some progress in the peace process. [end recording]

Rabinowich To Become U.S. Ambassador on 5 Feb

TA0112193392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Israeli Ambassador in Washington Zalman Shoval will end his term on 5 February 1993, when he will be replaced by Professor Itamar Rabinowich. This was agreed on today in a telephone conversation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Ambassador Shoval. The prime minister's bureau reported that the agreement was coordinated with the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir Hospitalized After 'Feeling Unwell'

TA2911211492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Knesset member and former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was hospitalized this afternoon at the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer Hospital after feeling unwell. His doctors reported that he was now feeling better and will remain in the hospital for several days to undergo tests. This was reported by our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad.

Peres on Relations With Austria, Neo-Nazism

AU0212105592 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 2 Dec 92 p 3

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ben Segenreich; place and date not given: "Opening a New Page With Austria"]

[Text] Originally, Israeli Vice President and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres should have come to Vienna today, Wednesday, only as a private guest of the "Austrian Society of the Friends of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem." The desire to normalize relations has now resulted in meetings with President Klestil, Chancellor Vranitzky, vice chancellor Busek, and Foreign Minister

Mock, and thus is the first working visit by an Israeli foreign minister to Austria for the past 19 years.

[Segonvich] In Austria one can hardly remember the last official visit by an Israeli statesman. Is Austria a difficult terrain for Israeli politicians?

[Peres] I cannot speak for all my predecessors. But the period when Waldheim was president was certainly very difficult for Israeli policy.

[Segonvich] From Austria you have heard Vranitzky's speech about shared responsibility in Nazi crimes but you have also heard about the popularity of the rightists. How do you interpret these mixed signals?

[Peres] Better a mixed reaction than a one-sided reaction that ignores responsibility! What Mr. Vranitzky said speaks very strongly for him and for the party that he presents. And we would certainly like to open a new page in our relations with Austria after the very long interruption. In addition, Austria has expressed the desire to play an important role in the multilateral Middle East negotiations. It has offered to participate in planning in the fields of energy and water, and this is more than welcome.

[Segonvich] To Condemn neo-Nazism in Germany, as Israel's Government has now done is very natural. But if you meant that Germany is not doing enough against neo-Nazism, why did you not say so clearly?

[Peres] We said that we expect the German authorities to do more than in the past. And while we condemn Nazism, racism, and xenophobia, we recognize the forces that are struggling against that. It is a different Germany. Therefore, we call on it to take all necessary steps. Anti-Semitism is not a Jewish but a non-Jewish illness. The Jewish people acts as a barometer for this atmosphere, this danger, against which every person—no matter whether or not he is Jewish—should rise up.

[Segonvich] What is the state of the peace process?

[Peres] We have made progress in two respects. There is a division in working groups, and there is an agenda. The negotiations are being held at two levels. At the bilateral level the countries are dealing with their quarrels of the past. At the multilateral level they are dealing with the prevention of conflicts in the future. Here we want to follow the example of the united Europe: A common market, which everyone will be interested to see flourish, with collective security—this is what we are trying to establish. Much progress has been made, and most things are irreversible.

[Segonvich] In the bilateral negotiations, however, the differences seem to be unbridgeable.

[Peres] If the Palestinians accept our proposals that they choose their leaders by political elections, this will be a big step in the direction of democracy and peace. We have also proposed a mixed model to them: a self-governing authority, which administers most spheres that are usually administered by a central government—with the right to have a say in matters concerning the land. The land where Arabs live will be administered by them, just as the land where Jews live will be in Israel's hands.

[Segonvich] Will direct talks be held with the PLO?

[Peres] This is a very old question. Now a completely new situation exists. First, there is a Palestinian delegation, which has been recognized by everyone. Second, we have said publicly that this delegation may consult with whoever they want. And third, if someone wants to strengthen the authority or the prestige of the Palestinian delegation, elections are the best means of doing so. I, for instance, would not vote for 'Arafat. But why should we choose the Palestinian leaders? We tell the Palestinians: Elect your leaders! Whoever you elect, we will negotiate with him.

[Segonvich] Is the schedule that the government set down when it assumed office still valid?

[Peres] Yes. The elections can be held in three to four months, and we suggest that autonomy be introduced in nine to 12 months.

[Segonvich] Is Israel still keeping the Europeans out of the peace process?

[Peres] No. In the bilateral negotiations there is no need for further intervention. But Europe can play a constructive role in the multilateral talks. I cannot expect a friend to agree with me 100 percent; 80 percent is already a great deal. In addition, the European attitude toward Israel has changed, and we appreciate this very much. Specifically, we have established Europe's participation in the Disarmament Committee, and the EC is now willing to flesh out the free trade agreement with Israel, which has existed since 1975, and to consider a special status in the European Economic Area for Israel.

Editorials Comment on Neo-Nazism, Response

TA0011125092

[Editorial Report] All Israeli Hebrew-language newspapers on 30 November carry extensive reports and commentaries on what is generally termed "the racist rampage" in Germany, some dwelling on the German Government's responsibility and others on steps expected from the Israeli Government.

While most newspapers speak of the German Government's feeble response to the recent events, the editorial of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ on page B1, entitled "The Bonn Government Is Responsible," concludes that "it is inconceivable that the Bonn government had no information about the neo-Nazi reorganization process" and, therefore, "there is a growing impression that the Bonn government, and primarily Chancellor Helmut Kohl, allowed the roughnecks to run on the assumption that they enjoy the sympathy of wide circles within German

society and also out of the belief that quelling the riots would cost the Christian Democratic Union votes."

HA'ARETZ goes on to say that while Israel was pleased to witness the mass antiracist demonstrations, "even 50,000 demonstrators cannot stop as few as 50 criminals. Only the regime can do this job." HA'ARETZ concludes that while "the disintegration of the Soviet empire has left Germany the predominant country on the European continent, Germany must not conclude that it can afford to remain indifferent to the sense of horror that has gripped the entire world, including the Jewish people."

The editorial of Tel Aviv HADASHOT on page 2, written by Yossi 'Ahadi and entitled "The Moment of Instinct," addresses the Israeli reaction to the events in Germany, saying that "in an attempt to muffle its reaction and to avoid harming relations with an important European superpower, this government's voice of diplomacy overcame the concerned, somewhat hysterical voices demanding a strong Israeli retaliation against Germany, such as the termination of Israeli tourism to that country." Seeing the recent events as an expression of "something sick and distorted in German society," the editorial states that "under the circumstances, this is no time for considerate rationalization by those who don high hats. This is the time for a gut response reflecting the nation's true feelings. We cannot settle for 'a sharp condemnation' and be done with it. Only a dramatic reaction will shake the Germans' placidity and alert them to existence of the Nazi animal. Even if common sense dictates otherwise, we should treat 1992 as if it were a rerun of 1932."

Contrary to the above, the editorial of Tel Aviv DAVAR on page 9, entitled "Blood, Money, and Demagogy," urges Israel, a victim of the Arab boycott, "to be very cautious in waving the banner of a boycott against Germany and in orchestrating international Jewish reactions." Noting the "importance with which friendship toward Israel is viewed by the high echelons of the German Government, whose aid to Israel is second only to that of the United States," the editorial urges the Israeli Government not to allow "the condemnation of the worrisome manifestations in Germany and the expression of Israel's inevitable expectation that neo-Nazism be nipped in the bud to sway to cheap demagogy."

Commentary Says Rabin Government Lacks Direction

TA031218892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Dec 92 p B1

[Commentary by Ya'el Marom: "There Will Be No Great Miracle Here"]

[Text] Five months into what was called "the political upheaval," there is an uneasy feeling of missed opportunities, an impression that nothing works here lately. Disasters and mishaps follow each other. Unemployment is the same as it used to be, only a little bit worse. Road accidents keep happening, only they are being dealt with more sloppily. Nothing has changed in the economy, economic experts believe, except that it has become worse. The peace process continues, so to speak, but all the sides have grown more pessimistic. Personal security is as tenuous as ever, only explosives and car bombs make it look grimmer. Nothing has changed, and if it has, it has only been for the worse.

There are cracks in the credibility of the government and its branches (the Army, for example). One can sense the government's impending failings in the air, as well as skepticism about its ability to solve the country's weighty problems in the foreseeable future. Norms of government have become questionable: A government without a defense minister and with a foreign minister without powers; wars over appointments and job-grabbing, just like in the merry old days of the Likud. "On many issues, members of this cabinet are following in the footsteps of their predecessors," moaned 'Al HAMISHMAR, whose mother party is a major component of the government.

In an interview with DAVAR last weekend, Labor veteran Yitzhaq Ben-Aharon stated: "It is astonishing to suddenly realize that the guys we put in power are immature. Immaturity can be graceful where young girls are concerned, but when older people act like juveniles it is worrisome and preposterous.... They live their lives forwards, but they think backwards," said Ben-Aharon with regard to the cabinet ministers, paraphrasing a saying of the philosopher Kierkegaard. No sweet talk coming from a distinguished man such as Ben-Aharon, one of the last surviving founders of Rabin's party.

But why should we quote Ben-Aharon when Yitzhaq Rabin's own opinion of his government is no less severe? You may have noticed that the prime minister has recently frequently referred to his cabinet ministers as "fools" and "losers." One often senses that he looks down on some cabinet members; he speaks bitterly about the coalition and the heavy price he was forced to pay to his partners. If the government is not credible in the eyes of the man who heads it, why should it be more credible in our eyes? Rabin refers to his interlocutors in the peace process, initially the Palestinians and later al-Asad, with the same bitterness and disappointment. On a clear day one can discern a gradual return to the old phrase "there is no one to talk to."

The day of his victory in the elections, Rabin tied himself down with several pledges. One of them had to do with Gaza autonomy within six to nine months (and leave Syria to the end). Another pledge was to change the order of priorities: economic growth and eradicating unemployment instead of settlements. The third pledge had to do with appointments based on qualifications. Rabin, along with advisers who are scornful of the media, took his first steps with the condescending attitude of a would-be president or monarch. His enemies argue that the character and decisiveness of a person do not change with age, but this statement does not apply to the consequences of his character. Now he knows that

appointments were not made according to qualifications. He soon realized that his deadline for autonomy was a daydream and decided to give priority to al-Asad, just to be disappointed all over again. Israelis gave top priority to the peace process and were ready to sacrifice a great deal for it, but when the process got stuck they looked around and realized that nothing is actually working out. There is no plan or action to reduce unemployment, the most painful problem to the individual.

The Rabin government came to power unprepared; it had no plans and it did not do its homework; it had no ideas how to run the country, stated Ben-Aharon in the aforementionod interview, thus putting the finger on the government's main failing. In the U.S. system, a president who wins the elections gets a three-month interval before he actually assumes the job. That gives him enough time to choose the right people for the right jobs and to examine all the plans so that he can get down to do the job the day he moves into the White House. Labor did not need three months. After all, it had been preparing to return to power for 15 years. And that is enough time to come to work prepared.

Five months is not enough time to declare failure, but it is enough time to notice whether the government has any direction. What worries us is not just that no problem has been solved, but that we do not see any solutions being formulated. Rabin has not yet consolidated his government's modus operandi, and that is one reason why everything looks so disjointed. As things look today, we have reason to believe that no great miracle will happen here.

Gazan Dies of Wounds Sustained in 1 Dec 'Riots'

TA0212092492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Khalid al-Ustadh, 23, from Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, last night died at Tel Hashomer Hospital of the critical wounds he sustained yesterday from IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops gunfire in the course of riots in his city.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a commercial strike was announced in Gaza today in mourning for 13-year-old 'Amar Yusuf Abu- Sharah, who was killed by IDF soldiers gunfire yesterday.

Despite the curfew imposed yesterday on the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood and the al-Shati' refugee camp in the wake of unrest, several instances of disturbances and stone throwing were recorded this morning.

King Hussayn Inaugurates Parliamentary Session

JN0112120192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1010 GMT 1 Dec 92

["Speech From the Throne" by Jordan's King Hussayn, inaugurating the fourth and last session of the 11th parliament; in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; God's peace and blessings be upon the lord of the messengers.

Honorable Senators; Honorable Representatives: God's peace and blessings be upon you.

In the name of the Almighty God, I declare open, this fourth ordinary session of the 11th Jordanian parliament, and express my appreciation for, and pride in the loyal Jordanian family, which has recorded a great national epic through the unity of its members, their solidarity, their genuine attachment to their country, and their devotion to the basic principles upon which we agreed and to which we have been committed in thought, policies, and positions.

I am here with you today to resume together the process of construction and the fulfillment of the trust and the mission we undertook for the good of our proud Jordanian people and the glorious Arab nation.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

Since the opening of the previous session of your august assembly our country has made significant strides in consolidating the democratic process, in the establishment of its various institutions, and in the building of the state based on the rule of law, in which citizens enjoy freedom, equality, justice, and security. We promulgated the Political Parties Law, which allows Jordanians to get involved in political activity through parties that are truly Jordanian and nationalistic in their outlook, goals, conduct and funding, and which are committed to the Constitution and the National Charter; parties that place the country's interests and the unity and cohesion of the Jordanian people above all other considerations.

As democracy in Jordan has succeeded in encompassing various political trends and in launching the rational and responsible dialogue we witness today, it is worthy of our adhering to it firmly and of consolidating it in our consciousness and behavior, and of protecting it from deviation and extremism, so that peaceful dialogue will become the tradition to which we resort in resolving every disagreement. We do this out of our conviction that violence and fanaticism do not solve any problem, that no one has a monopoly on the truth, and that the wise decision pertaining to any matter, is that on which the majority of the people agree. A vibrant nation can never concur with straying from the right path.

The House of Representatives has completed the greater part of the debate on the new press and publications draft law, which contains the necessary guarantees for free press and the freedom of expression within the context of national responsibility and the professional code of conduct which should guide journalists' performance under all circumstances. A draft law for the establishment of a teachers association will be submitted to your august assembly during its current session. This draft law will contribute to the achievement of additional guarantees and rights for teachers; establishing job security, continuity, and advancement for a profession that has been revered by humanity through its long history. At the same time, it is expected that teachers will dedicate themselves to practicing their noble educational mission with professionalism, patience, and loyalty to the country and all its people. The government also will submit to you the draft labor law, which will represent a step forward in organizing workers' affairs and safeguarding their rights, while at the same time enhancing their role in supporting the national economy, which will benefit from their productivity.

The government will introduce for your approval a draft law on youth care which aims at charting out a comprehensive strategy for youth and sports.

The government has abolished martial law and the 1935 Defense Law, as well as regulations based on them, and has given its full support to the judiciary and to enhancing its status.

The General Amnesty Law was enacted in order to open a new page in our life, transcending the events of the recent past... [interrupted by applause], so that we can look to the future in the spirit of amity, loyalty, and responsibility, as well as strict adherence to the rule of law in this law-abiding state. In order to complete this process, and upon our directives, my government will act to commute sentences that were excluded from the General Amnesty, but this will be done within the context of protecting the interest of the society on the one hand, and the spreading of happiness on the other, giving offenders a better chance to join society after being rehabilitated as good law-abiding citizens, God willing. [applause and slogans wishing the king long life]. It is a sign of confidence and pride that the gates of freedom have been thrown wide-open in our country, transcending the confines of political human rights to higher levels, such as rights of children, women's care and the right of all people to equal access to public services and to living in a secure and clean environment.

It is with these objectives in mind that my government will complete the steps necessary for the establishment in Amman of a center for the study of freedom, democracy, and human rights in the Arab world, so that the edifice of democracy may be augmented, that righteousness may be reinforced, and that the message we have carried throughout generations may be upheld.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

Stemming from faith in our Arab Legion—which is the country's sword, shield, and the source of its pride—and in order to assert the distinctive role of our Armed

Forces in the defense of the homeland... [interrupted by applause], the protection of its security and independence, and in safeguarding its accomplishments, my government, to the best of its ability, has given the Armed Forces its utmost attention. It will continue to provide the Armed Forces with the means necessary to modernize and develop its ground, air, and naval forces and to promote, to the highest standards, their achievements in professionalism, equipment, and training so that they will always be, as we wanted them to be, at a level commensurate with the responsibilities and the tasks facing them, and in order that this Arab Legion may remain, as ever, the embodiment of the ideals of gallantry, nobility, as principles of the Great Arab Revolt defending the homeland and the nation. [applause and slogans]. When called upon to carry out responsibilities pertaining to peace-keeping in troubled spots on the globe, our Army projects Jordan's true image to these nations. Members of our Armed Forces are now deployed in the former Yugoslavia, and in Somalia, Cambodia and Angola, fulfilling a great international role.

My government also fully realizes the major and critical role played by the Jordanian security forces in performing their sacred duty in a democratic society, especially in maintaining law and order, promoting stability, and defending the country and people, while at the same time providing the proper atmosphere for economic prosperity and social progress. Therefore, they are the focus of our care and attention so that they will fully carry out their functions, armed with the power of right and the law.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

During the past year, changes have occurred in the international situation. States have disappeared and new ones have emerged. Regional struggles developed and new international forces came into being. In view of these political changes, the Arab world seems as though it is far removed from what is going on around it, raising the fear that this historic moment might pass without the Arab Nation having any role in shaping or formulating this changing world.

Proceeding from the above, the Jordanian Government endeavored to bypass the current estrangement and to work for reviving Arab solidarity and activating the role of the Arab League, out of Jordan's belief in its pan-Arab responsibility, since it is the inheritor of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, and the guardian of its dreams of independence, liberation, and unity.

We will reciprocate any good step to this effect by any brother with a bigger step aimed at ensuring that our nation will remain within the circle of action, life, future, and civilization.

My government will continue to bolster the foundations of cooperation with the Arab, Islamic, and friendly countries on the basis of trust, mutual respect, and joint interests, and without interference in the affairs of any state in the world.

The government also will strengthen relations with the emerging countries in the wake of the new international developments, and will continue to participate in regional, Islamic, and international organizations in order to build a better world characterized by peace, amity, and cooperation.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

My government has stressed the importance it attaches to the issue of administrative development by issuing a document at the beginning of this year which shows in detail the deficiencies in administration and the ways to remedy these deficiencies depending on a comprehensive, well-defined plan of action. This plan stresses administrative decentralization, greater delegation of powers, simplifying measures, and overcoming government red tape at state agencies.

Regulations were issued for a National Data Bank and the Administrative Inspection and Control Commission. The regulations of the Legislation Bureau also were reconsidered so that it will become more capable of carrying out its duties and offering legal advice to various state agencies.

At the same time, a national plan for administrative training was drawn up, as well as a national plan for technical and vocational training for the next four years. The two plans will go into effect as soon as the state budget for 1993 is approved.

My government has been concerned to take legislative and executive steps that ensure more guarantees to safeguard public funds and tighten internal control on ways of spending it, out of the fruitful discussion that took place at the esteemed House of Representatives when they debated reports by the Accounting Bureau during the last extraordinary session.

In the field of social development, the government has adopted a new approach that seeks to achieve social justice through reducing differences among various classes, ensuring a fair geographical distribution of services, working seriously to combat poverty, reducing unemployment, and increasing opportunities for employment. Under this approach, social services are viewed as an integral package, characterized by comprehensiveness and balance, that has links with all concerned sectors, such as education, health, labor, social development, housing, religious affairs, youth, culture, and information.

My government has continued to provide educational services in all their fields and components. For instance, the government concentrated on constructing comprehensive school buildings, which reduced the rate of rented schools from 49 to 21 percent of the kingdom's schools. Thus, an opportunity was created for around 80

percent of our students to study for the first time in modern schools that meet all educational and hygienic conditions.

My government has worked to advance teacher training as part of the Educational Development Plan. As a result, this year 2,000 teachers have been trained to obtain specialized academic degrees. In addition, 16,000 teachers have received intensive training to promote efficiency and improve performance. The relevant training institutions will continue with their training and education programs for 17,000 teachers next year.

My government has continued to improve school curricula and textbooks and to enhance their content so as to suit the needs of both the individual and society in the present time and in the future, taking into consideration that the first stage of implementing these curricula will be subject to further evaluation and development.

My government is reviewing legislation related to higher education to grant universities more independence, to maintain their distinctive role, and to enable them to achieve their objectives and overcome obstacles facing them. Concerned authorities also are conducting a comprehensive evaluation of public and private university education to chart out a future policy for this major sector in our life.

God willing, al-Zarqa University will join the other Jordanian universities, and a new medical institution will be established at the University of Science and Technology to meet the advanced medical needs of the northern part of the kingdom. This institution will bear the dear name of the founder of the kingdom, 'Abdallah Ibn-al-Husayn. [applause]

My government has formulated public and private accreditation standards for our Jordanian universities in accordance with criteria set out by the UNESCO experts. My government is also in the process of establishing academic accreditation councils in the Kingdom in order to safeguard the same university education standards at both public and private universities.

The government will double the allocations of the National Assistance Fund in order to secure more productive support for the less fortunate people in our society by helping them start small businesses to provide them with means of an honorable life. The government also will increase substantially allocations for the Development and Employment Fund, now that its law has been adopted and it has become a means for creating new job opportunities for ambitious young people wishing to shoulder their responsibilities, free themselves from the shackles of unemployment, and become productive.

Proceeding from Jordan's belief in its Arab-Islamic message and out of its awareness of its distinguished position in the Islamic world, the government has continued to pay great attention to Islamic holy shrines in holy Jerusalem. Thus, it began to restore the Holy Dome of the Rock, with support, which I felt that I should be the first to extend, and God has honored me by helping me to undertake this mission. The government has reinforced security around al-Aqsa Mosque, and has gone a long way in the documentation of Islamic heritage in order to protect it against loss. It has embarked on steps to reconstruct historical mosques and the tombs of the prophet's companions, may God be pleased with them, embraced by our dear Jordanian land so that they will remain lofty edifices telling the story of its honorable and glorious history. Next year, the Al al-Bayt University will undertake its responsibilities as a center for enlightened Islamic thought.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

The democracy Jordan enjoys has provided the proper atmosphere for creative writers, intellectuals, and artists. Cultural life in the Kingdom has prospered. Festivals, seminars, theaters, and art exhibitions have spread throughout the homeland. The First Amman Cultural Symposium has been an important qualitative initiative to strengthen interaction among Arab intellectuals and to shed light on the Jordanian cultural movement, which is part of our Arab-Islamic culture.

The various literary, intellectual, and artistic activities taking place in Amman, along with the hosting of the conference of the General Federation of Arab Writers, place Amman at the forefront of flourishing centers of Arab culture. As an expression of its support for theater and the arts, the government will accomplish the Artists' Unions draft law in order to organize their affairs and enhance their careers.

Proceeding from our desire to convey the homeland's bright image to the Arab and foreign worlds, my government soon will acquire a special satellite channel that will affirm Jordan's regional and international presence. My government also has strengthened radio transmissions so as to reach all corners of the world. Local television transmission facilities will be set up in several governorates to expand coverage of various activities in the northern and southern parts of the homeland. My government also will promote the performance of the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, and enable it to cope with the age by using modern means of communication in transmitting its news to reach larger and and more distant parts of the world.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

My government has undertaken with determination measures to deal with the structural imbalances suffered by our national economy as a result of reduced exports, continued dependence on foreign aid, diminished remittances from Jordanians working abroad, and the closing of traditional markets for Jordanian industrial output and exports. The government has embarked on the implementation of a comprehensive medium-range program for economic reform and recovery for the years 1992-1998. It aims at resuming growth, raising the

citizens' standard of living, securing new job opportunities, reducing dependence on foreign aid, increasing self-reliance, curbing inflation, and enhancing the Kingdom's foreign-currency reserves, as well as providing basic social services, extending aid to the needy, and rationalizing the utilization of national resources. We are hopeful that upon implementation of this program our country will enjoy further monetary and fiscal stability, economic recovery, and prosperity for all citizens.

An objective evaluation of the performance of the Jordanian economy shows that it has achieved positive growth and comprehensive development this year. By the end of this year the gross national product will have increased by almost 11 percent owing to increased activity in various sectors, especially in construction, agriculture, and industry. It is expected that domestic revenues will increase to cover current expenditures and finance about 50 percent of the government's investments for the first time in the history of the Kingdom. The inflation rate will be low this year, not exceeding 4 percent, which will contribute to maintaining the stability of prices and lead to their gradual reduction.

My government has acted to ease the burdens of servicing the foreign debt. Part of our debt to foreign governments has been rescheduled and agreements have been reached to reduce the burden of debt owed to creditor commercial banks by proportions still to be agreed on. My government sought to reduce domestic debt through early repayment and by limiting borrowing ceilings to the lowest level. It is worth mentioning that a number of new industrial companies have been established this year, and their number and size have surpassed the number of companies established during the previous four years combined. We also should cite the fact that large numbers of tourists from various parts of the world have arrived in our country, which is rich with civilization and heritage.

Despite the burden imposed on our national economy as a result of the return of our brethren in the wake of the Gulf War, thanks to God and to the efforts of our loyal citizens we have been able to cope with the consequences of this sudden migration. A large number of returnees have been integrated in areas of work and production.

My government has undertaken the task of repairing damage sustained by public facilities and various sectors, especially the agricultural sector, as a result of harsh weather conditions last winter. It fulfilled its commitment to exempt farmers from large parts of the interest payments incurred on loans extended to them, and asked the Agricultural Credit Corporation to double its working capital, which the corporation has begun to implement already. The government did its best to absorb surplus vegetable production, both locally and through exports, and took the necessary measures to encourage farmers to grow crops that can withstand long periods of storage.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

In accordance with a well-defined program, my government has worked to expand infrastructure, particularly to cope with the sudden return, owing to the Gulf War, of our citizens who worked abroad. The Ministry of Public Works is working toward the completion of the highway network, having carried out over the last few months the necessary maintenance of roads throughout the Kingdom to repair damage sustained last winter.

Regarding the construction of dams, studies and designs for the construction of the al-Karamah dam and raising al-Kafrayn dam in the Jordan Valley have been drawn up and implementation will commence early next year. The necessary designs for the construction of two dams at al-Mujib basin are being drawn up. Furthermore, a study also is being conducted to construct two more dams, one in the al-Hasa Valley and the other in the al-Jirdhan Valley. In the al-Badiyah and the highlands areas, al-Ruwayshid dam has been constructed recently, and work is underway to complete the Suwaqah and Rajil Dams. The government is drawing up a comprehensive plan to erect more desert dams and water-collection pits to utilize rainfall and floods in promising areas.

In the field of telecommunications, the government has endorsed the investment plan of the Telecommunications Corporation to provide telephone service for more than 180,000 subscribers during the next five years.

My government continued to secure basic staples, while expanding storage capacity to maintain a strategic reserve of these commodities, together with action to control and combat high prices and re-direct support to the needy.

My government is carrying out its plan of extending electrical power to the rest of rural areas, the inhabitants of which do not exceed 2 percent of the total population of the Kingdom.

The government is going ahead with prospecting and drilling operations for oil and natural gas, and in increasing the utilization of gas in the generation of electricity. It will establish a national oil company for this purpose. It is also in the process of setting up an investment company for minerals, and an independent national authority for nuclear energy.

Out of firm belief that it is both a national and a universal duty to preserve the environment, the government has concluded the National Environment Strategy. It will introduce a draft law to your august assembly governing all environmental issues, and coordination efforts among various departments. An independent body will be set up to supervise environmental affairs, thus contributing to safeguarding against pollution in all its forms and sources. Furthermore, agreements have been reached with the International Association for the Preservation of Nature to maintain the Dana and al-Azraq wild life preserves. Efforts are underway to maintain twelve more wildlife preserves throughout the Kingdom.

Jordan actively participates in international efforts geared toward the protection of the environment, which includes, among other things, participation in pertinent conferences and symposiums, as well as signing international conventions. Based on this, I have signed The Hague Declaration, and I have participated in the Geneva Conference. Likewise, my government participated in the deliberations of the Earth Summit held in Brazil last June. Consequently a national committee has been set up to follow the implementation of the summit's resolutions and recommendations. The government is a signatory to the Climatic Change and Biological Diversification Agreements, as well as the Basel Agreement for the disposal of dangerous waste and controlling its passage across borders. We also have signed the Ramsar Agreement for the Protection of Humid Regions, as well as the Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone layer.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Representatives:

Jordan, to which we are proud to belong, has always been a springboard for pan-Arab thought, something we inherited from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt... [interrupted by applause] and have striven to embody in order to achieve liberty, independence, and unity for the Arabs.

Jordan's foremost commitment to defend the just causes of the nation has stemmed from its genuine intellectual heritage. Proceeding from this, the Hashemites and the Jordanian people defended Palestine and the Palestinian people... [interrupted by applause], considering the Palestinian question a decisive pan-Arab commitment, which they have always manifested since the turn of this century. The founder of the Kingdom, King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Hussayn, led Jordan's struggle to save Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque from occupation. He embraced the soil of Jerusalem when he fell as a martyr on its cherished land. In the same way, his father, the elder of the Hashemites and the leader of the nation, has chosen to be buried in this blessed land.

We followed the steps of our fathers and forefathers in defense of the Palestinian land and the rights of the Palestinian people. The chaste blood of the twin peoples—the Jordanians and the Palestinians—has mixed. [applause]

While we in Jordan are working, along with our brothers, to return to them their land and national rights, foremost among which is the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the immortal city of Jerusalem, we assert that we are seeking a just, honorable solution, based on right, not on might and the imbalance of power.

We have always affirmed the constants of the Jordanian stand toward the peace process—which was based on international legitimacy represented by the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace—for the sake of attaining a permanent, honorable peace based on right and justice and acceptable to future generations. Such a peace must be based on a comprehensive solution on all fronts and to all issues, a solution that returns the occupied land to its rightful owners and enables them to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination on their national soil. We are doing this in full coordination with Arab parties participating in the peace process: Syria, Lebanon, the PLO and other Arab countries involved in the peace process. [applause]

On the basis of the historical mission of our nation, Jordan's Arab Islamic affiliation has always prompted it to support the nations' causes everywhere. This was the reason behind our preserving work to alleviate the suffering of the brotherly Iraqi people... [interrupted by applause]; our stand with determination, firmness, and strength in support of Iraq's territorial integrity; and our rejection of all attempts to partition it or infringe on its sovereignty and independence. We adopt the same stand toward brotherly Muslim nations that suffer from repression and from civil wars or foreign encroachment, such as Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. We extend all possible political, moral, and material support to these peoples.

Honorable Senators, Honorable Deputies:

Our country—which derives its strength from the people's awareness, their unity, and their participation in responsibility—will continue the process of development and construction with courage, faithfulness, and dedication, challenging obstacles and supporting justice everywhere. While doing all of this, they are inspired by the spirit of our faith, the Great Revolt... [interrupted by applause], and the sacrifices of our fathers and forefathers for the sake of liberty, independence, and a better future.

May God grant you all success in your path of righteousness.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Iraq's 'Aziz Talks With Prince Hasan, Departs

JN0112195592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan this morning received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister, and Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi foreign minister, along with the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. They talked about world developments, with special emphasis on the Middle East. Important as it is, his highness pointed out, the Middle East might be marginalized if its conflicts and the current state of affairs were to persist. Prince Hasan cited ethnic, sectarian, and religious conflicts rocking numerous parts of the world. His highness noted that Jordan's rational and level-headed stances on regional developments enjoy worldwide respect.

Tariq 'Aziz outlined the situation in Iraq, and stressed that his country would pursue efforts at the United Nations to get the blockade lifted.

'Aziz and al-Sahhaf left for Baghdad at noon today.

Iraqi Radio on Ba'th Party Letter to Mitterrand

JN2811160092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Jordan has urged French President Francois Mitterrand, currently on a visit to Jordan, and his government to adopt a balanced and independent policy that takes into account the Arab basic rights in Palestine and to work on ending the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a letter to President Mitterrand, the party command explains that the credibility of Western states and their slogans on human rights and international justice and principles are now questioned by the Arab citizen.

The letter notes the historic ties and the relations of friendship between the Arab and French peoples and stresses the need for Mitterrand's government to maintain these ties.

Plane Returns From Sarajevo Carrying Jordanians

JN2811184592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The plane that transported food and medicine to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina returned to Amman last night. The goods were donated by the Hashemite Jordanian Charity Organization for Relief, Development, and Arab-Islamic Cooperation.

The organization's Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi who met the plane on behalf of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chairman of the organization's board of trustees, stated that the airplane had brought back a number of Jordanian students and citizens from Sarajevo who wished to return home, in addition to other nationals of Arab and Islamic countries—Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran. There was coordination with the United Nations and the embassies of their countries to evacuate and rescue these citizens.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat Reelected House Speaker

JN0112152092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Holding the first session of its fourth term today, the House of Representatives reelected Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as speaker by a majority of 58 votes. One deputy was absent and a blank ballot was cast.

The second candidate to the speakership, Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, garnered 19 votes. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri on Syrian Presence, Hizballah

NC0212115092 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASAT in Arabic 29 Nov 92 p 5

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Beirut by AL-AHRAM correspondents Harriyah Ahmad Hamza and Mohammad Matar; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Question] There are some who support and others who oppose the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon. How do you view this issue and what are the dimensions of Syrian-Lebanese relations?

[Al-Hariri] There are no differences with Syria over this issue. Syrian-Lebanese relations have historical roots and both countries are bound by deep fraternal ties and common interests. These relations are eternal and will always be protected and free from foreign interests and whims. These relations do not infringe on sovereignty and independence. On the contrary, they guarantee our sovereignty and independence. In the past few years Syria has been a guarantee to protect Lebanon from partition and Lebanon formed an extension to Syria to ward off adversaries. Lebanon's supreme interests cannot be ensured if there are parties who bet on developments that could allow circumventing Syria or using Lebanon as a springboard to undermine Syria. If we want the Syrian Army to withdraw, it will do so any time. The Syrian forces will withdraw at the appropriate time. We have no problem with the Syrian Army but there is a problem with the Israeli presence on Lebanese territory.

[Question] The Lebanese Government succeeded in disarming all the militias except Hizballah. Why? And what are the implications of the relations between the government and Hizballah?

[Al-Hariri] The Lebanese Government disarmed all the militias and factions including Hizballah except in the area adjacent to the Israeli occupation. There are no signs so far that the Israelis are prepared to withdraw from the south. Hizballah is not alone in the south. There are various Lebanese nationalists who resist the Israeli occupation. We have relations with Hizballah through its representatives in the Chamber of Deputies.

[Question] There are reports that the Lebanese and Israeli delegations to the peace negotiations reached agreement on forming a joint military security committee. Is this true and what is Lebanon's position on participation in the eighth round of peace talks?

[Al-Hariri] This information is inaccurate. There is no agreement between the two sides except on Resolution 425 [as published], which provides for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. Lebanon will not rest or let others rest until this dear part of our land is returned to us. Our kinfolk there are suffering from the Israeli occupation. We call on the world to support the legitimacy and our just cause. This is the touchstone of the world's obligation and credibility in protecting rights. Participation in the eighth round of peace talks is not a problem. The problem lies in the instable security situation in south Lebanon. There are questions about the atmosphere of the new round and its positive outcome. We cannot keep silent or be patient indefinitely about the Israeli occupation of the south. We emphasize the need for the international community to exercise pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Shammas Briefs Al-Hariri on Talks With Israel

NC3011164392 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has met with Suhayl Shammas, the head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, and the delegation members to assessed the progress of the talks, particularly in connection with Lebanon.

Shammas briefed Prime Minister al-Hariri on the atmosphere at the talks, the discussions that took place, and recent Israeli positions.

Shammas announced that during the most recent round, Lebanon scored two very important points: first, a clear and full Israeli recognition of the internationally recognized Lebanese border; second, that Israel has no designs on Lebanese water resources.

In an interview, Shammas explained that the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are excruciatingly difficult because of current conditions in Lebanon and Israel's repeated attempts to pressure the Lebanese delegation and place intolerable burdens on it. He disclosed that the Israeli delegation members told him that they did not expect to reach an agreement with Lebanon before concluding an agreement with Syria and that they regard the key to the solution as being in Damascus, not Beirut. Shammas said this is an Israeli attempt to create a contradiction between the Syrian and Lebanese roles. He said proof of this is that if we turned things the other way round, the entire situation would change. [sentence as heard]

Shammas explained: This does not mean that we do not believe our relationship with Syria is important. Indeed we benefit from Syrian backing and do not let any opportunity pass without fulfilling our commitment to coordinate with Damascus. If Damascus wants to, it can reach a separate peace with Israel.

Shammas added that Israel has tried to ruin the negotiations because it believes that if it acknowledges that the negotiations must continue it would be tantamount to acknowledging that it must abandon the territories it now occupies. He added that during various stages of the negotiations, the Israeli delegations have tried to create contradictions to compel the Arab countries to stop negotiating. He noted that Israel would then tell the world that the Arab wish to attain peace is questionable and not likely to endure throughout the negotiations.

Shamrun said the Israelis are trying to obtain the greatest possible gains while giving the least possible concessions.

Syrian Redeployment Not Raised at Lebanese Summit

PM0112145092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Avoided Raising Syrian Redeployment"]

[Text] Beirut—Official Lebanese sources have told AL-HAYAH that it was agreed at the Lebanese-Syrian summit held last Thursday to freeze discussion of steps to abolish political sectarianism at this stage if that is going to worry a group of the Lebanese, and to wait until there are favorable conditions to agree on the mechanism and steps of that abolition.

As for the issue of the Syrian forces' redeployment in Lebanon, the two sides discussed it from the angle of emphasizing that it is "a bilateral matter." And the Lebanese side said that "this is not the right time to raise it, and we should wait until after the supreme Lebanese-Syrian council's meeting and until conditions are suitable for raising it locally, especially with regard to Lebanon's ability to take over security from the Syrian forces."

The sources pointed out that the Lebanese side "decided before the summit meeting not to raise the redeployment issue or discuss its implementation."

The sources said that "a brief assessment of all stages of the seventh round of negotiations took place at the summit, including their results and what could be raised in the eighth round to be held in Washington on 7 December."

The sources pointed out that Lebanon emphasized at the summit its rejection of the Israeli proposal to hold a meeting for a joint military committee within the framework of the negotiations to discuss security arrangements. And that it insisted that any meeting of that kind should be held within the framework of the truce committee arising from the truce agreement concluded between Lebanon and Israel in 1949.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz yesterday said that Lebanon's reply to the Israeli proposal to form a military committee is "rejection."

The sources pointed out that Lebanon will pursue a policy of caution and deliberateness at the upcoming negotiations until the U.S. Administration's orientations and dealings with the Israeli authorities, which are refusing to discuss the withdrawal principle, are clear. The sources said that Syrian officials were not as alarmed at Bill Clinton's winning the U.S. presidency as has been portrayed.

They pointed to the existence of contacts between him and Damascus and between him and Lebanese officials.

The sources pointed out that discussing the orientations of the eight round of negotiations made it natural to broach the situation in the south. It was agreed to calm it down and exert every effort to prevent the eruption of a new round of violence like that which occurred two weeks ago. In this connection it was agreed that the Syrian and Lebanese sides should make diplomatic and political contacts to guarantee this calm in this delicate stage. The Lebanese side, which will continue its contacts in this connection with the U.S. side to check any Israeli escalation intentions, expressed hope that Syria would play a role with the Iranian side to benefit from its influence over Hizballah in the south within the framework of the same orientation.

Patriarch Opposes End of Political Sectarianism

NC3011143292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has stressed that the abolition of political sectarianism, if done hurriedly and before sectarianism is removed from souls, will undermine the sectarian system on which the country was founded in terms of political representation. He explained that such a step will allow larger sects, in terms of number, to dominate smaller ones. The absence of the smaller sects, he added, will prevent them from exercising their political rights in public life.

Patriarch Sfayr was speaking at the opening of the ordinary session of the Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops Council, held today at the Lady of the Mountain in Adma. Catholic patriarchs and bishops and Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente attended. Patriarch Sfayr said if the abolition of political sectarianism brings an end to coexistence, it will turn Lebanese society into that of ruler and ruled, not to mention oppressor and oppressed. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Delegation Visits Patriarch Sfayr

NC0112191492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] A Hizballah delegation visited Bkirki today. The visit, Hizballah's first ever to the Maronite patriarchate seat, came one day after Patriarch Sfayr spelled out his stand on the abolition of political sectarianism. The discussion with Patriarch Sfayr dealt with several political issues, including the abolition of sectarianism, the Vatican-Israeli dialogue, the political system in Lebanon, and the resistance in the south.

This evening, a Hizballah delegation comprising Political Bureau members Khidr Tulays and Nuwwaf al-Musawi visited Bkirki. They were accompanied by

Sa'ib Hammudi, head of the Chamber of Deputies Administrative Affairs Department. After the meeting, Tuleyn said:

[Begin recording] [Tuleyn] We discussed several internal and regional issues in depth. The discussion was marked by clarity and frankness. We asked his beatitude, the patriarch, to speak with the Vatican and with the Pope in particular regarding the opening of the dialogue between Vatican and Israel. Naturally, we expressed our concern over this dialogue and asked his beatitude to take an interest in this subject and speak with the Vatican about it.

We also discussed the Islamic-Christian dialogue and the issue of openness in general in Lebanon. We affirmed to his beatitude that we are advocates of dialogue and openness, provided they are founded on firm principles designed to build, not destroy, a homeland. In the past the dialogue and the atmosphere of openness that existed among the Lebanese parties were based on interests. When these interests conflicted, war broke out. We do not want to cause another war in Lebanon. Hence, we affirmed that the dialogue, openness, and the relations among the sincere and faithful forces in this country should be based on firm principles.

We discussed other issues in depth with his beatitude, the patriarch, including the resistance. We told him that the resistance defends this homeland. The resistance, which has been able to prevent the further expansion of the occupation, requires that all Lebanese support it in various ways. We discussed another basic point with the patriarch. We affirmed that we believe political, religious, and cultural freedoms are sacred and must not be undermined; quite the opposite: They must be safeguarded. Lebanon must be built on the basis of a nondiscriminatory system in which the rights of the citizens are safeguarded and the right of religious and cultural diversity is guaranteed.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] The patriarch said yesterday that political sectarianism must be abolished from the soul before it is abolished from the texts. Did you discuss this subject and did you arrive at a common stand?

[Tuleyn] In fact, we discussed this subject with his beatitude, the patriarch, who explained what he meant by the abolition of sectarianism from the soul before its abolition from the texts. We also explained our understanding of political sectarianism. We told him that Lebanon should have a nondiscriminatory political system based on equality in citizenship and on religious and cultural diversity. I believe our respective viewpoints on this subject were very close after he explained some points of his statement. [end recording]

Syrian-U.S. Summit Expected Beginning of 1993

PM0212111092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Clinton Administration Prepares To Send Invitations To Hold Arab-Israeli Meeting Along Lines of Madrid Conference"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that a high-level Arab meeting will discuss before the end of the year preparing a complete file on the Jerusalem issue. Arab sources in Cairo pointed out that U.S. President-elect Clinton's administration intends to arrange a high-level Arab-Israeli meeting at the end of January. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, several Arab capitals, including Cairo, are seeking to arrange a Syrian-U.S. summit meeting in the first quarter of next year between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The sources said that the awaited meeting will be tantamount to a renewal of the invitation which Bush announced during the U.S. presidential election campaign some three months ago when there were signs on the horizon of an escalation in the Syrian-Israeli crisis right from the beginning of the fifth round of negotiations held in Washington.

The sources pointed out that the Al-Asad-Clinton meeting and the friendly meeting expected to be held between Al-Asad and Bush on the sidelines of that summit will be tantamount to a renewal of the preparation for the meeting which some international parties are seeking to arrange between Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—the meeting which Syria is rejecting because of the intransigence of the Israeli position on the deadlock over the legitimacy of recovering the Syrian Golan Heights in full without any insistence from the Rabin government on keeping security points in the heights after withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Israel Said Attempting To Fuel Arab-Iran Conflict

JN2911134292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN: The Israelis are nowadays fostering efforts to confront a new danger; namely, the Iranian danger. They call for the launching of an economic, political, and military alliance between Israel and some Arab states to avert this alleged danger. Israel seems not to have been consensed with thwarting the talks held during the seventh round in Washington, with its occupation of Arab lands, and with the threats that it poses to the entire Arab destiny. He who read about or heard Shim'on Peres' statements in this regard is bound to be amazed. He wants the Arabs to forget about the sufferings caused by the Israelis throughout scores of years and to forget wars with Israel just to nurse the delusion of confronting a danger allegedly emanating from an Islamic country; that is, Iran. This is aimed at engaging the Arabs in a new bloody conflict with Iran and destroying Arab and Iranian resources so that Israel may Judaize the entire occupied Arab territories, plant them with settlements, and absorb hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: If this scheme were to succeed, the Palestinian people's rights to their homeland as well as Arab rights to Jerusalem would lose the international attention presently accorded to them. Consequently, Israel would continue its efforts to realize its scheme; this time, nobody would hold it accountable for anything. It is to be recalled that former Israeli Minister Sharon once revealed that Israeli schemes cover countries other than those in the Arab region, countries such as Iran and Pakistan.

In the important interview granted to the U.S. TIME magazine, President Hafiz al-Asad said: Iran is a big country. Regional security requires the existence of understanding between Arabs and Iran.

Afghanistan

Rumors of Military Takeover Spread in Kabul

LD2811131892 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The rumor of a military takeover is spreading in Kabul. A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul that the military movement of the remaining units of the former regime and their generals has been increased. Meanwhile the rumor also is circulating that some sort of military action probably will take place before the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council.

Islamic Union, Islamic Unity Clash in West Kabul

LD3011172092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] There were clashes between the forces of Sayyaf's Islamic Union Party [Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami] and the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] in the west of Kabul, the Afghan capital, in the early hours of this morning. According to a Central News Unit report from Islamabad announcing the news, ANA, the news agency affiliated to Hekmatyar's Islamic Party, added: During the clashes, which took place in the Kompani, Dasht-e Barchi, and Qaleh Qazi areas, west of Kabul, a number of missiles hit the positions of the Islamic Unity Party. As yet there are no reports on the number of casualties.

Election Teams in North Limited by Dostum Faction

BK2811165692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1512 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Kabul, Nov 28 (AFP)—Several teams of delegates sent to northern Afghanistan to help prepare for the upcoming national elections have been obstructed from carrying out their assigned tasks, officials said Saturday [28 November].

An official spokesman for the Jumbish, a northern Afghan movement headed by Uzbek strongman General 'Abdur Rashid Dostum, confirmed that six of the four-man delegations have been confined to a hotel in the northern town of Mazar-e-Sharif. "The delegates are the guests of General Dostum until he returns from Saudi Arabia to take a proper decision about them," the Jumbish spokesman said.

Various teams left Kabul 10 days ago with the task of supervising the selection process of provincial representatives for the upcoming Shoora Hal-ya-Aqd, or Grand Assembly, which must convene in Kabul mid-December to elect a new Afghan leader. Government officials denied any knowledge of obstruction to these delegates.

Dostum, an ex-communist regime militia commander, is demanding a say in the Shoora process as well as political recognition for Jumbish on the Islamic state's ruling Leadership Council, which is composed of the leaders of the nine major mujahedin factions only.

Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, spokesman for the Leadership Council, said the question of Dostum's membership has not yet been discussed by the council. Dostum can expect a stormy passage to acceptance by the Leadership Council due to his ex-communist regime military background, although Mohseni noted that "until now the criteria for acceptance on the council have not been defined." The March defection of Dostum from the Najibullah regime to the mujahedin side was instrumental in bringing about the collapse of the Moscow-backed Afghan government. Mohseni said that Dostum fits into a third category somewhere between the communists and the mujahedin.

Dostum is now challenging the mujahedin leadership for its hitherto exclusive rule in ruling Afghanistan.

"The Leadership Council does not represent all the people of Afghanistan. It's a kind of monopoly," the Jumbish spokesman said. He said Dostum went to Saudi for both a religious pilgrimage as well as to conduct political talks. Dostum was officially invited by the Saudi king, the Jumbish spokesman said. He cited the Saudi visit by Dostum as evidence of the importance of Jumbish as a political movement.

"This invitation has proved that all the allegations that we are kafirs (unbelievers) and ex-communists are not true," the Jumbish spokesman declared.

Whether Dostum will allow the teams of delegates in Mazar-e-Sharif to proceed with their job of supervising the election of the provincial representatives to the Shoora or whether he will nominate his own delegates is not yet clear. But a satisfactory result of the Shoora may be in jeopardy if the Leadership Council does not give due consideration to Jumbish demands.

"We do not oppose any gathering of representatives to solve the problems of the country but if the Leadership Council does not heed our demands then we will declare that the Shoora Hal-ya-Aqd does not reflect the true wishes of all the people," the Jumbish spokesman said.

Coalition Forces Defeated in Helmand Province

LD2711134992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports that intensive fighting broke out between the coalition forces and Mujahedin in Helmand province and continued for six days. As a result of this fighting, the coalition forces suffered a major defeat in the province. Of the coalition, 50 men were killed and 16 others were captured by the heroic Mujahedin in this province.

The report adds that the Muslim and noble people of Helmand province have displayed their hatred and repulsion against the coalition forces.

Defense Ministry Official Abandons Post

LD2711131292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] According to a reliable source, Seyyed Shafiollah Pacha, who was appointed head of the Defense Ministry's Organization Department, has abandoned his duty in order to make a protest. He said: What should I do with a position with no authority attached to it? I was there as head of a department but the authority of the position was given to a communist official who is the remnant of the communist regime. Seyyed Shafiollah Pacha also said: During my tenure of office I have not even signed one paper. What sort of position is this? I do not want such a position.

Rabbani Receives Russian Parliamentarian

LD2511120492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0280 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Yesterday morning esteemed Professor Burhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council and president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Irina Andrev, member of the Russian Federation's parliament, for talks at the Gulkhana Palace. During the meeting talks were held on issues of mutual interest and on the consolidation of relations between the two countries in the new political environment.

Mas'ud Receives Russian Parliament Official

LD2611182892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with Ioan Andronov, vice chairman of the Russian Federation Parliament, at the palace of the Prime Ministry. At this meeting both sides spoke about subjects of mutual interest and strengthening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The vice chairman of the Russian Federation Parliament expressed his country's readiness to supply basic materials to the people of Afghanistan for the reconstruction of the country.

At the end of this meeting the esteemed minister of defense was interviewed by Australian television and he answered questions raised by these correspondents.

Official Discusses Settlement Council Elections

LD2411214892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Mr. Erfani, member of the central council of the Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and member of the central commission for the preparation of Afghanistan's Reconciliation and Settlement Council's statute, who is in Tehran to explain how elections for the Reconciliation and Settlement Council will be staged, said in an interview with IRNA: Since no specific formula has been worked out for the participation of Afghan refugees in the elections of members of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council, it is necessary for all those who wish to take part in these elections to return to Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Describing how the elections for the Reconciliation and Settlement Council will be conducted, he said: To prepare the ground and to supervise the provincial council elections, a delegation from the central commission for the preparation of the Reconciliation and Settlement statute will be dispatched from Kabul to different provinces. Erfani said that more than 100 clergymen, officials, and elders [rish-sefidan] of provinces will become members of provincial councils. These individuals will then elect members of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council. He added: The latter council which will have over 1,200 members will appoint the future president of Afghanistan who will serve for a period of 18 months.

Rabbani Stresses Islamic Army Concepts

LD3011220092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Address by Leadership Council Chairman Borhanoddin Rabbani to units of Islamic Guard and troops of General Command for the Defense of the Islamic Revolution, following parade and sports display in Kabul on 30 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Esteemed brothers, commanders, officers and troops of the Islamic Guard and the Islamic revolution of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and dear sportsmen of the Islamic State of Afghanistan—peace and blessing be upon you. I would first like to express my appreciation of all of you who, despite many problems facing us, have succeeded in taking up advanced steps in various military and sporting skills. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, the Islamic army in our Islamic order is one of the most important pillars in guarding the gains of the Islamic revolution, the aspirations of the martyrs, and our Islamic revolution. [passage omitted] Any enemy who confronts an Islamic state and an Islamic army should feel that it is confronted with a powerful army. It is not an ordinary army. Any power that proposes aggression against Islamic territory will sense that the Islamic army is so powerful as to inflict a severe blow on any aggressor. "Frighten the enemies of God" [from Koran]. An army that has not attained a level of organization for withstanding an aggressor, an army whose military equipment is obsolete and rusty, and which has but little military expertise, can never frighten the enemies of God and the Muslims. An army which is powerful in every way can frighten the enemies of God and the Muslims.

We have seen how thousands of Muslims have been defeated and killed in various parts of the world, without their cries being heard; we have seen how oppressed Islamic nationalities and nations—wherever nations are being crushed and their blood is shed—we see that these nations are not any other nation and no other people are living under more captivity and oppression [sentence as heard]. This was all because powerful forces, advanced weapons, and military initiatives did not exist in Islamic countries. The forces of the Islamic countries were trained by foreigners, and their weapons too were manufactured by foreigners. It is a matter of surprise that 100 years ago, we had a large military plant in Afghanistan, at the time of Sher 'Ali Khan. In those days we had an arms plant, but today—after the passage of many years—no initiative has been seen since then.

Thus, Muslims in various parts of the world had substantial discoveries and military initiatives hundreds of years ago. Later, however, the Muslims faced defeat and fell back in all spheres of life. The fundamental reason for all this was that Muslims in fact did not train Muslims and the forces that were the guardians of Islam and Islamic revolution in their countries. They were not concerned with devising means for defending themselves.

Today, however, we are living in the phase of new life of the Islamic umma [community]. Although the Muslims are still weak in material means today, and we still need others, a very valuable phenomenon has appeared in the life of the Islamic umma. This phenomenon will be the base for all future changes and victories.

The struggle of Muslims is being stirred up in various parts of the world. With the grace of God our Muslim nation was able to succeed in confrontation with international communism despite the oppression and savagery of the servants of international communism. We have established our Islamic state now. We recall the days when we had small forces, our battles were sporadic, and we had very little organized force, but our affairs gradually became mature, our jihadi organization and our military fronts gained strength, and eventually, with the grace of God, we won victory.

Now we have established our Islamic state, but our task is not finished. Our work has just started. We should know where to start now—we should start from the protection of our Islamic achievements. We must start our major tasks with the formation of regular units of the Islamic army. While our army has to observe military order and discipline in organization and must attain a high military level, what is more important are Islamic character and moral restructuring and mental and behavioral Islamic education. We must not only be an example in terms of military expertise but also set an example for others in terms of a link with Islam and Islamic teachings and morals. Moral power is many times more important than material power on the battlefield. The difference between an Islamic army and other armies is that not only does a Muslim soldier's combat skill reach a high level, but also his Islamic morals set an example. [passage omitted]

My advice to our generals is to train our army with high Islamic morals and character. I am confident that foreign enemies, however many of them, are not very dangerous. Our dangers are internal dangers. And we see that in the course of history the defeat of Muslims has come from within—all Islamic caliphates. When Muslims lose fighting spirit and the very rigorous Islamic life which every Muslim, at every level, should have, and instead devote their lives to luxury and pomp, their military life is turned into an irresponsible, irregular life without proper administrative organization. As a result they certainly face defeat and humiliation; and when Muslims bring their military life and militarism into all aspects of their life, the secret of victory and success is with them. We hope that our Islamic army will be a powerful army in terms of military organization and Islamic moral education. [passage omitted]

Gilani Discusses Candidacy, Policy in Interview

LD2211030892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 21 Nov 92

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the correspondents of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of Afghanistan's National Front Party, officially announced his candidacy for the leadership of the future Afghan Government.

Gilani stressed that the government and all mojahedin groups are doing their utmost to ensure that the Council for Resolution and Settlement, as the highest decision-making body, will meet on 10 December, and he expressed his strong opposition to the leaders of some mojahedin groups who are against the presence of women in social and political arenas. He said that he would try to resolve this problem and, in connection with Afghanistan's internal policy, said: the Afghan Government's internal policy must provide security and the basic necessities of society and fulfill the just rights of all ethnic groups on the basis of Islamic commands.

Regarding the Afghan Islamic Government's foreign policy, he stressed the importance of the expansion of cooperation with neighboring countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. In connection with the participation of the citizens of some countries in the attacks two months ago by the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami on Kabul, he asked that those countries refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Gilani expressed the hope that those members of Pakistan's military forces who are cooperating with Hekmatyar will adopt a policy in keeping with that of the Pakistani Government.

Kabul Jihadi Council Chairman Views Security

LD2611195492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A meeting attended by Kabul provincial jihadi commanders and members of the Jihadi Council of Kabul Province was held in the Ministry of Internal Affairs this morning. The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that at the start of this meeting a few verses from the holy Koran were read out; then esteemed Mola Taj Mohammad, chairman of the Jihadi Council, Kabul Province, spoke about the security problems and recent decisions regarding their solutions. He said: The Jihadi Council of Kabul Province and jihadi commanders of the province, in coordination with the organs of the Armed Forces, are trying to provide facilities for the transportation of foodstuffs and fuel to Kabul citizens and to restore security along the highways and in the capital; and to remove the present difficulties through talks and understanding with the representatives of all formations so as to prevent all traces of insecurity in Kabul city.

At the end of this meeting the correspondents asked questions about the security situation and existing difficulties of the Kabul citizens which were answered by the chairman of the Jihadi Council of Kabul Province.

India

Delhi Regrets Pakistan's 'Aggressive Propaganda'

BK0112160692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] India has regretted Pakistan's aggressive propaganda over the death of two of its nationals in the company of identified terrorists on the 15th of October this year in Jullundur District in Punjab. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that instead of indulging in futile campaign against India, Islamabad should provide immediately full and detailed information on the antecedents of the two Pakistani nationals who were killed in an encounter with Indian security forces.

Pakistan Accused of 'State-Funded Terrorism'

BK0212092692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi has accused Islamabad of striking at India's secular foundation through state-funded terrorism in Kashmir. Addressing a UN committee, Indian delegate, Miss Manimekalai, said a secular country like India cannot tolerate secessionist tendencies and terrorism in the name of religion. She also refuted Pakistan's allegation of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Court, Other Officials Comment on Ayodhya Dispute

BK0212041092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] The Supreme Court has ruled that it will not hesitate to step in if it receives any adverse report from the court observer monitoring the situation in Ayodhya. The apex court also observed that it has still kept open the option of appointing a receiver to manage the acquired land at Ayodhya. The court ruling came amid reassertions by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] that the kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction] will include everything, even construction at the 2.77 acres of acquired land. Earlier, the Supreme Court directed both the Uttar Pradesh government and the Center to undertake a joint publicity campaign to caution kar sevaks [volunteers] of its order banning construction activities on the acquired land. It also asked both the Center and the state governments to decide together the security measures required to safeguard the disputed complex in view of kar seva beginning from the 6th of this month. The court's recommendation came following a report by the attorney general, Mr. Milan Banerjee, saying that there is a need to strengthen the security around the disputed structure. The division bench comprising Mr. Justice M. Venkatachaliah, Mr. Justice G. N. Roy, hearing resumed arguments, also referred to the Uttar Pradesh government's assurance that no construction activity on the disputed land will be allowed. The state government reiterated its assurance that there will be no movement of construction machinery or material into the 2.77 acres of acquired land.

The home minister has expressed the Center's concern over the security of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. In a letter, Mr. S.B. Chavan, called upon the Kalyan Singh government to make a comprehensive review of the security plan for the complex in cooperation with the special team representing the central forces. The home minister said this is urgent and essential in view of the reported arrival of about 25,000 kar sevaks at Ayodhya. Mr. Chavan observed that any damage to the structure can lead to serious law and order situation in the country. The home minister's letter also denied any indiscipline among the paramilitary forces stationed in Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the issue of the disputed structure at Ayodhya can only be resolved through negotiations or by making suitable amendments in the Constitution and not by court verdicts. Addressing public meetings at Mughal Sarai and Varanasi, Mr. Advani said that in his opinion, the existing structure in Ayodhya is a temple and not a mosque.

In Rajasthan, all the 17 BJP ministers in Shekhawat cabinet have tendered their resignations to the state BJP president, Mr. Ram Das Agarwal, to participate in the kar seva in Ayodhya. According to agency reports, the

ministers in the BJP-Janata Dal-D coalition government have sought permission from the party president for their participation. Talking to newsmen in Jaipur, Mr. Agarwal said the party has decided in principle to allow the ministers to participate. The 35-member cabinet has 17 BJP ministers besides the chief minister, Mr. Shekhawat.

Parliament 'Uproar'

BK0212093192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Both houses of Parliament witnessed uproarious scenes today over the Ayodhya issue. The Lok Sabha was adjourned till 1400 without transacting any business. The Rajya Sabha, which carried the question hour, was adjourned amid noisy scenes during the zero hour till 1430. Non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members in both houses were agitated over the remarks of the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, at Varanasi last night on the kar seva [voluntary community service for temple construction] issue. They contended that Mr. Advani's remark that kar seva will go beyond the symbolic bhajans and kirtans [chanting of religious hymns] amounts to violation of the Supreme Court order and of the constitution.

The uproar began in the Lok Sabha soon after the house met this morning with the Janata Dal, left front, and the Congress-I demanding an immediate statement from the government about the latest developments in Ayodhya. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India - Marxist] member, Mr. Vasudev Acharya, who had given a notice for suspension of the question hour wanted the prime minister, who was present in the house, to react. Repeated pleas by the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, to maintain order went unheeded. Noisy scenes followed when several BJP members asserted that court orders were not being flouted and nothing can stop the kar seva. Left members sprang to their feet protesting against the speaker calling Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee [BJP leader] to put forth his views. The communications minister, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said they have no objection to Mr. Vajpayee speaking, but, he should clarify the remark by Mr. L.K. Advani on the Ayodyya issue. Heated exchanges followed inspite of the speaker's suggestion that if the house agrees a discussion can be allowed at 1600 today. He firmly ruled that he will not suspend the question hour. When unruly scenes continued for more than 25 minutes, the speaker adjourned the house till 1400.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed noisy scenes for about 20 minutes when several members tried to raise the issue simultaneously. After deputy chairperson restored order in the house, Mr. Jaipal Reddy of Janata Dal said that the constitution is being trampled, judiciary held to public ridicule and contempt, and the Supreme Court orders openly violated. He appealed to the entire house to condemn what he termed as an attack by the BJP on the Indian constitution. Mr. Reddy said the time has come for the center to act strongly and immediately. Mr. S.S. Aluwalia, Congress-I said that if the action is not taken by the government, there will be disturbances in the country over the statements of BJP leaders. He demanded that Army should be sent to Ayodhya to provide security there. Mr. Gurudas Gupta, CPI, referring to the BJP leader, Dr. M.M. Joshi's reported statement about Krishna Janmabhoomi [birth place of Hindu god Krishna] at Mathura and some other places said that attempts are being made to expand the areas of confrontation. He asked the government to take immediate action. At this stage, some other members tried to raise their points. There were heated exchanges of remarks between the BJP and the non-BJP members which were not heard in the din. Several non-BJP opposition members came to the well of the house protesting the reported remark of a BJP member that some members of the house are Pakistani agents. When the members did not heed to the appeal of the deputy chairperson to restore order, she adjourned the house till 1430.

Commentary Views BJP Dilemma

BK0112040692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt, journalist]

[Text] The hope that the Supreme Court's order of Saturday, permitting only symbolic kar seva [voluntary service for temple construction] at Ayodhya will defuse tension has begun to fade. The court yesterday heard a plea to take cognizance of some religious leaders statements on kar seva. It rightly declined to take any serious notice of such statements. The observer appointed by the Allahabad high court as directed by the apex judicial body has now to send his report on the actual position at Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, and the party president Dr. M.M. Joshi, have already announced a plan to stage a new rath yatra [chariot journey] to Ayodhya. The UP [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, is also expected to join them in the kar seva beginning on Sunday [6 December]. Mr. Advani is right in saying that kar seva is always symbolic. But, behind the symbol, there is also a great deal of actual construction activity. Will the Ayodhya kar seva also be a symbol of some real construction work? If Mr. Kalyan Singh is to be believed, the truth will only be known on that fateful day, the coming Sunday. If the situation was without an element of mystery, the U.P. chief minister has thus supplied it. Actually, there is not much of a mystery. The BJP is obviously feeling like sitting on the horns of a dilemma. To save the UP government from possible dismissal by the center in the event of a confrontation, the party and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] have to bow to the Supreme Court's order. But now, it is possibly realized that its rank and file feel let down that the kar seva will amount to nothing more than prayers and singing. How can the leaders now face their supporters and the large body of sadhus [mendicants] who have been brought to Ayodhya to perform kar seva, not just to offer prayers.

There is reportedly a sharp division among the VHP leaders also. Perhaps, the BJP and the other bodies allying with it feel that their earlier decision to stake the fate of the Kalyan Singh government on the kar seva issue was right.

The possibility of a fresh confrontation cannot just be ruled out. The BJP and its allies ought to have thought of the court's stay which has been in force since July before they announced the kar seva date. The center is apparently once more found the court providing the much-needed relief. But this does not justify Mr. Advani's charge that the center has dragged the judiciary into the dispute. The court in Faizabad was first approached by some supporters of the cause taken up by the BJP as long back as 1950. Both the Hindus and Muslims have sought to get the courts involved in the dispute.

Iran

Majles Speaker Blames U.S. for Abu Musa Issue

LD3011223992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri said the Arab stand in aggrandizement of the issue of Abu Musa Island and the move by the European Parliament—with the excuse of the violation of human rights in Iran—were the results of pressure by the global arrogance led by the United States. He said the leadership of the revolution has well understood the enemies of Islam and revolution and in obeying the guardian of the cause of the Muslims [Vali-e 'Amr-e Moslemin, Ayatollah Khamene'i] we will not establish any relations with the United States. The legitimacy of the Majles, the government, and the judicial power are in their obedience to the guardian of the cause of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

The Majles speaker also said efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the acquisition of arms is necessary for the defense of the territorial integrity and national interest of the country. [passage omitted]

UAE Ambassador Praises Relations With Iran

LD0112185692 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to Iran, Ahmad Muhammed Bu-Ruhaymah, described relations between the two countries as "very solid", in his meeting with Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today.

He said the UAE is the closest country to Iran in the Persian Gulf region and expressed hope that recent problems between the two countries would be settled soon and that mutual relations would remain strong and friendly as before.

Besharati in response said that observing the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of each other and respect for their territorial integrity and coexistence were necessary for expansion of mutual ties.

The two sides also discussed regional issues as well as matters of mutual interest in their meeting held on the UAE national day today.

Fundamentalist Meeting Planned for Khartoum

PM0212104692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Arranging Conference for Fundamentalist Groups in Khartoum"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in Tehran yesterday emphasized that Iran is making arrangements to hold a conference for fundamentalist groups in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in February.

The conference's aim is to form a world general secretariat to coordinate the operations of the groups financed and politically supported by Iran.

At present 19 of these groups are active in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, and Sudan, in addition to other Islamic states, and in the territories occupied by Israel.

The plans to form this secretariat were discussed with the Iranian delegation which is currently on a week-long visit to Khartoum.

The 32-member Iranian delegation is headed by Iranian Chief Justice Mohammad Yazdi. It comprises diplomats and officials from Iranian security and intelligence organs.

The program of the delegation's visit includes holding extensive talks with Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the [National] Islamic Front in Sudan, which sources in Tehran say is one of four Sudanese groups receiving financial support from Tehran.

This support, which is provided through banks in London, is described as "primarily symbolic" so far. But current talks could result in a substantial increase in the Iranian financial aid to Islamic movements in Sudan.

Analysts say that the Iranian initiative is part of a wider plan designed to reemphasize Iran's revolutionary standing and restress the Iranian Government's commitment to "Khomeyni's message." [passage omitted]

West Accused of Backing Serb Aggression in Bosnia

LD0112225292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Our country's representative at the extraordinary session of the UN Human Rights Commission accused Western countries of supporting the Serbs' aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to reports our country's representative, who was speaking in Geneva, referring to the UN Charter, called the Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina's defense against the onslaught of the aggressor Serbs to be the inalienable right of that country's Muslims.

Stating that if international organizations, especially the UN Security Council, do not perform their duties, violation of human rights—crystallized in ethnic cleansing—will escalate, he called on the Security Council to do its duties in this regard.

West Accused of Double Standards on Nuclear Arms

LD0112224892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Propaganda offensive of the Western mass media, which have joined hands to denounce the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in recent days has been assuming wider dimensions. The propaganda, launched by the Western media, is based on this focal point that Iran is moving toward progress in the nuclear weapons program and will be in a position to produce nuclear weapons by the year 2,000 A.D.

Despite this on-going propaganda, Mr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in an interview yesterday, expressly dismissed these charges levelled against the IRI, describing Iran's nuclear facilities as directed towards peaceful purposes. He reminded that there was no need for any re-inspection of the nuclear installations in Iran. It is, however, not known as to why at this juncture the Western media, by launching an adverse propaganda atmosphere, are endeavoring to solicit the world public opinion toward their own motivated objectives. Obviously the West, especially the United States, has constantly followed a double standard in its bid to control nuclear weapons and in fact has pursued the this hypocritical policy all along.

Assuredly the move on turning the sensitive and strategic Middle East region into a nuclear-free zone can be a positive and useful measure in the event of it being adopted on an all embracing manner. However, the Western media, in principal, are trying to conceal and cover up the issue of the well-equipped nuclear facilities of the Zionist regime in the region.

The occupier Zionist regime, while annually receiving nearly two billion dollars in military aid from the United States, is the top recipient of the most sophisticated weapons, both in the conventional and nuclear weapons fields, from that country. In fact the Israeli regime is the only regime possessing nuclear arms and their related long reach military weapons.

Early this year the International Atomic Energy Agency explicitly said that any region being declared as nuclear-free zone as part of any agreement in the Middle East peace process must also include Israel. The comments of Mr. Blix denote that Israel does enjoy nuclear capability for unconventional exploitation and it will resist any effort to demolish such weapons. The fact is that the Zionists have many years now been heavily investing in the nuclear weapons production program and the occupied Palestine with the direct aid and backing from the United States. In this same connection all types of financial, technological, and technical aids have been put by the American specialists at the disposal of Israel for the production of such nuclear weapons.

According to a report released by London's International Institute for Strategic Studies this year, Israel, having a population of about 4,000,000, possesses one hundred nuclear war heads for surface-to-surface ballistic missiles and, according to an estimate by the institute, Israel's nuclear arsenal is the only one of its kind in the Middle East region. However, despite the fact that the Zionist regime has never concealed its nuclear projects, it has opposed any sort of international inspection of its nuclear facilities. It is interesting to note that no sensitivity has ever been expressed the Western circles on this subject. Therefore, based on the existing indications and evidence, undoubtedly it is the occupier [word indistinct] regime which poses threat to peace and security in the region. But the Western media simply ignore this issue.

In any case this double standard maintained by the West, which certainly is motivated by some special political goals, while openly supporting Israel, also acts as a pretext so that the region may be turned into an arena of profitable arms race.

Dailies on New Western Propaganda Against Iran

LD0112135692 Tehran IRNA in English 0959 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 1, IRNA—Two morning dailies Tuesday [1 December] commented on the new wave of Western propaganda against Iran and the plans underway to revitalize the country's military strength.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' viewed the propaganda as a part of a Western strategy against the Islamic world in which Islam is misrepresented as a major threat against international peace and security.

"The West, the U.S. to be more precise, by adopting such a strategy hopes to substitute the vacuum caused by the

collapse of the eastern empire in order to focus its propaganda assault on a 'tangible enemy' which puts Western interests at stake," said the article.

In fact, it added, this was a new round of the cold war in which the West by indentifying Islam as a major threat tried to regulate its strategy in a manner that could pave the way for an expanded Western political, propaganda, information and even military assault against advocates of Islam.

"Identifying the Islamic Republic of Iran as a 'threat' is a prelude of this strategy which will gradually embody the whole Muslim world," the editorial noted, adding that Muslims' zeal for the revival of Islam all over the world proved that any opportunity allowing Muslims to express their views would inevitably result in their victory in Islamic states.

The Algerian experience and the severe tension threatening pillars of the Egyptian regime were all attesting to such an assessment and had forced the U.S. to take a measure to halt further growth of the idea for the revival of Islam, the article added.

"It is only in this context that West's attempts for magnifying efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in revitalization of its defensive capacity will become meaningful. Because, it will make regional countries scared of an illusive threat to the extent that they may launch plans for their military build-up and thus conclude major arms deals with the West," stressed the daily.

To this end, it concluded, the region would be permanently on the edge of crisis and ready for explosion—circumstances under which military presence of the West in the region would be completely justified.

Commenting on the same subject the 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that the underlying motive for engaging in an orgy of arms production now in the post-cold war era is to maintain a tough image, and export them as much as possible to world troublespots.

"Troublespots are incidentally of two kinds: Where conflicts are contrived to create insecurity, as in the Persian Gulf and places where the political interests of the colonial powers call for keeping the flames of war burning, as in the Balkans," said the article.

For all practical purposes, the daily added, it could be said that after meeting "security needs" of the producing countries, arms were primarily intended for export to the Middle East, particularly the Persian Gulf, and the newly industrializing countries of east Asia.

"Arms sales anywhere, especially in the Persian Gulf, are done with the marketing pitch of enhancing the security or defensive needs of the country or countries involved. But what they (arms) do is actually create instability and tension, leading up to an arms competition in which everyone will be equally the loser," said the editorial.

Stressing that the "centerpiece" of the U.S. and Western arms strategy in the Persian Gulf "is Iran", the paper noted that by using the Persian Gulf shaykhs' fear and gullibility, the arms producing countries had tried to create an image of the Islamic Republic as one with an eye on others' territories.

"It is said that there are so much arms in Saudi Arabia, the Saudis are finding it difficult to stockpile them. To this already overcrowded and sardine-packed arsenal should be added 72 F-15 fighter jets yet to come. Kuwait has also placed a similarly large and expensive order for hundreds of ultra-modern tanks to enhance its 'security'," said the daily.

Meanwhile, it added, the U.S. State Department confirmed last week that the United Arab Emirates had asked to buy a spy satellite and that the U.S. was examining the national security implications of the sale.

The paper added that in the race of growing arms amassing of the Persian Gulf Arab shaykhdoms, Iran was also taking measures to meet its security needs, though reluctantly. In fact, it noted, Iran's emphasis was on training and mainly self-sufficing rather than merely importing and stockpiling arms.

"However", the article commented, "the Islamic Republic is well aware that the race to buy means of death and destruction is foolish and will only help divert attention away from the national construction of the countries involved, waste resources, and increase tension."

Commentary Views Freedom of Press

NC0112144292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God.

Recent remarks by the leader of the Islamic revolution on cultural issues, support for freedom of the press, and the selection of a panel of editors in chief to oversee various publications are being discussed in cultural circles.

That publications exist is a sign of a vigorous and dynamic society; it is a democratic tradition in a society. Publications are considered the articulate tongue of every society and constitute a statement of its viewpoints, expectations, and ideals. Similarly, the number of daily and weekly publications and the variety in their content show that there are various thoughts and beliefs prevailing in that society and are eloquent testimony to the versatility of taste and thought.

This versatility of taste and thought makes a society culturally dynamic and helps it to blossom, but you must remember that this dynamism can only be felt and achieved when the members of that society have tasted

enlightened and useful appraisal. Adherence to democratic traditions in a society paves the way for cultural development and growth. Clearly, democratic traditions create a wholesome atmosphere in society, trimming it of opposing fronts and the casting of aspersions on others.

You must remember that there is a basic difference between the freedom to debate and criticize and attacks and slandering. The former has distinct boundaries and limits, but there is an atmosphere for breathing easy. This indicates freedom to act. Without such boundaries, there can be only anarchy and disarray, the scourge of all freedoms.

In light of the above, some press officials believe that publications are the fourth pillar of democracy and an expressive mouthpiece for the defense of the people's rights. Similarly, you must remember that to protect the fundamental freedom of the press, there must be syndicates to safeguard their rights. Unfortunately, such syndicates do not exist and until now the country's press laws have not been passed. Such legislation is important, because, first, publications should achieve their lawful rights and, second, based on this legislation, there should be a distinct boundary between legitimate freedom and abuse of this freedom.

This stresses that focusing on the proliferation of culture and a society's cultural problems is one of our system's most important objectives. This is because Iranian society, with its lofty cultural aspirations, differs fundamentally from other materialistic societies. This intrinsic difference also affects our concept of freedom of the press. This is why our publications are not authorized to tarnish the basic principles that are acceptable to our society.

Wholesome activity in the sphere of culture and publications primarily requires aware and dedicated elements who are committed to the society's fundamental moral and cultural principles. They must also be accustomed to free thinking and broadmindedness for a healthy approach to cultural issues.

So it is clear that the second objective can only be achieved by perseverance and constant effort and by relying on our society's young and aware.

Pakistan

Troops Fire on UN Observer in Nikial 30 Nov

BK0112143092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Indian troops opened fire on an observer of the United Nations military group in India and Pakistan in Nikial sector yesterday while he was investigating a cease-fire violation close to the line of control. It is learned that the UN group is lodging a formal report with the Indian authorities. According to details received in Rawalpindi today, the UN observer was fired at with two light machine guns from Indian positions despite the fact that he was carrying a white flag and had given prior information to the Indians in this regard. The UN observer, however, escaped unhurt. Diplomatic circles say the incident is indicative of the trigger happiness of Indian troops and their total disregard for efforts being made by the United Nations group to de-escalate the situation along the line of control.

Kashmir 'Mujahidin' Kill 30 Indian Troops

BK3011154892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Reports from occupied Kashmir say mujahidin in their counter offensive have killed more than 30 Indian troops. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] the Indian troops were killed when mujahidin ambushed a military convoy on Srinagar-Banihal road. Mujahidin have launched the counter offensive in retaliation by Indian troops who during the last two days have killed 53 innocent Kashmiris.

Ishaq Khan Comments on Opposition's Protests

BK0112100592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[By Shahid Shafkin]

[Text] Wah Cantt—In his first public statement during the current government opposition confrontation, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Monday firmly rejected the insinuation that the opposition's long march had his prior blessing and ruled out any possibility of his intervention as a mediator to persuade the two sides for a dialogue.

The president, who was answering a barrage of questions from newsmen on the current situation after his participation at a seminar at the Pakistan Ordance Factories, asserted that he could act only within the framework of the constitution whenever the situation warranted. He maintained that he would determine whether or not the assemblies should be dismissed. In his own words: "I know when the assemblies should or should not be dissolved. Whenever the circumstances develop which require my intervention I shall certainly act."

President Ishaq, however, said that the opposition's long march was not in conformity with the constitution. He said Parliament was the right forum to raise or debate issues which prompted the opposition to resort to such tactics.

The President, however, hastened to add that he was not opposed to long marches per se, provided the 120 million people of Pakistan collectively join in such a march for national stability, prosperity, progress and for the preservation of Islamic values. The President parried a question about withdrawal of references against opposition leaders by saying he has nothing to do with it and it is up to the courts to decide the matter.

When another questioner pressed for his reaction if the Prime Minister were to take an administrative decision in the matter, he said the question should be put to the Prime Minister.

Answering another question, the President apparently did not agree with the view that the government overreacted to the opposition's long march and expressed the view that the government's response had helped to protect public life and property by taking adequate law and order measures.

Following are extracts from the President's conversation with journalists:

Q: It is being said that the long march was launched with your blessing. Would you like to comment?

A: I often wonder how the pressmen get intuition about many things. I will only speak truth that I had no prior knowledge of the long march and nobody asked me about it before its launching. You people have written on it extensively and there is no scope for me now to say anything in this regard.

Wherever democracy exists it demands a government to run a country. Governments may be changed, but the change must be within some framework and the related rules and regulations in this respect are laid down in the constitution, and there is no other way to bring about change.

Whatever is being done now, and has been done in the recent past, I think there exists no scope for me to comment on it, except that it was not a constitutional way and the long march was inconsistent with the constitution.

Q: Mr President, the references filed against the opposition leaders are regarded as a bone of contention between the government and the opposition. If the government decides to withdraw these references would you have any objection to it?

A: It is for the courts to decide. I do not have anything to do with them. As far as political dialogue between the two sides is concerned I believe in resolving differences through talks and negotiations, provided the course of dialogue is accepted with open heart. The best forum for this kind of dialogue is the Parliament.

Q: If an administrative decision is taken by the Prime Minister to withdraw references, will you have any objection?

A: You better put this question to the Prime Minister.

Q: Mr President, it is being said in the Western press that the government had over-reacted to the long march call given by the opposition. Would you please comment on it?

A: The basic question remains how the government should protect public life and property and it is the best judge. It all depends upon the situation on the ground.

I am, however, pleased to see that public life and property was properly protected through installing a comprehensive security network at the time of long march.

Q: Mr President, a lot of objections are being raised to the Motorway project, would you say anything on it?

A: You better ask this question to relevant quarters.

However, as far as the march is concerned, I may ask something related to it; first, whether such actions would help promote democracy; second, whether the national economy would benefit out of this and third, whether the prestige of the nation has been enhanced in the eyes of other countries.

Q: Despite offer of dialogue to the opposition from some ministers, Ms Benazir Bhutto has put conditions, including commitment from the government to hold elections and withdrawal of references. How do you view the situation?

A: Under the circumstances, I do not foresee any role as a mediator, particularly when the parties do not accept each other's credentials. Even there is no agreement between them on the rules of the game.

However, I always prefer to follow the constitution and I will never do anything contrary to the constitution as my role is clearly laid down in the book.

Q: How can a dialogue be promoted?

A: Political dialogue may not be held unless the parties accept each other's credentials and agree on rules of the game, besides recognising the representative character of each other. The present situation is like the one in which one side is trying to convince the other that the game will begin only when the second party takes the field with two goals to nil.

Q: Don't you feel that the confrontation has reached a point where you should act under the constitution and dissolve the assemblies, as both sides are not ready to accept each other?

A: As far as the question of dissolving the assemblies is concerned, I know better than anybody else when the action is to be taken or not, and under what circumstances.

If such conditions arise I will certainly act. Some duties are attributed to the President in the constitution and the constitution is not only for me but for the 120 million people of Pakistan. Ask people whether they are following the constitution.

Drug Smuggling Charges Against PIA Viewed

BK0112143892 Lahore JANG in Urdu 30 Nov 92 p 3

[Editorial: "What is going on?"]

[Text] The American authorities have decided to fine Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] $15 million as the result of an investigation into alleged smuggling of heroin from Pakistan to the United States via PIA flights. It may be recalled that a PIA catering manager was arrested and 50 kgs of heroin were allegedly recovered from his residence during a search. The U.S. authorities have warned that planes involved in smuggling heroin will be confiscated if PIA does not stop the activity. The U.S. authorities have imposed a very heavy fine on PIA, although nothing can be ascertained about the authenticity of the allegations. However, heroin smuggling and trafficking in illegal aliens from Pakistan to the United States has been going on for a long time. It is not only PIA that is involved. Some heroin producers and job recruitment agents as well as people at some government offices are also involved; because no individual or organization can have control over all the stages in this operation. Three or four Pakistanis are being executed in Saudi Arabia every 7-10 days on charges of heroin smuggling. But there is no sign of abatement in this evil. The world market price of heroin is so attractive that people with weak willpower are easily tempted to smuggle heroin. Very influential and responsible people are involved in this heinous trafficking and it is not easy to take legal action against them. Regrettably, the government, despite all its claims, has so far failed to mete out exemplary punishment to any influential person or the key culprits. Consequently, Pakistan is being defamed throughout the world. The baneful effects of the drug menace will grow within the country and the periphery of Pakistan's disrepute in the outside world will continue to expand until all the people involved in the production and smuggling of heroin are arrested and all the loopholes of its production are sealed.